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Creator: Mary Jane Carlino

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# GENETIC AND MEDICAL ASPECTS OF DWARFISM

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Disorders involving short stature can be divided into two general groups: the first group includes those conditions in which there is proportionate short stature and the second group includes those conditions in which there is disproportionate short stature.

Proportionate short stature can be subdivided into a number of separate conditions including "constitutional" or "familial" short stature, intrauterine growth retardation and growth hormone deficiency. For some children with proportionate short stature, therapy by growth hormone administration may be effective in increasing height. This type of short stature will not be discussed further here.

Disproportionate short stature, generally called dwarfism, is characterized by shortening of the limbs ("short-limbed dwarfism") or of the trunk ("short-trunked dwarfism"). Dwarfing conditions may also be referred to in the medical literature as chondrodystrophies or skeletal dysplasias. There are now more than 80 recognized types of dwarfism and others are currently being delineated. Some types of dwarfism are recognizable in the newborn period, while others are not diagnosed until later childhood.

The diagnosis of a particular form of dwarfism is made according to the patients' physical features as well as the inheritance pattern, either in the family in question, or by example from other families reported in the medical literature. The evaluation of an infant, child, or adult with dwarfism involves recording of a detailed pregnancy and family history, a comprehensive physical examination, review of x-rays and, occasionally, studies of urine or blood samples. Effort should be made to arrive at a specific diagnosis in a given patient in order to provide appropriate medical care and genetic counseling. Future medical care will vary with the specific diagnosis and may involve specialists, such as orthopedic surgeons, ophthalmologists, neurologists, dentists, ear, nose and throat specialists, neurosurgeons, social workers and genetic counselors.

Most types of dwarfism are known to be caused by a single gene or a pair of genes. Genes are hereditary units making up the chromosomes present in each cell in the body. Genes function to influence all biochemical processes in the body, including growth. Most genes occur in pairs: one member of each pair is inherited from the mother and one from the father. In humans there are 22 pairs of chromosomes, these are called autosomes. The remaining two chromosomes, the "X" and the "Y" are called sex chromosomes and determine the sex of the individual; a male has one X and one Y chromosome and a female, two X chromosomes.

Autosomal dominant forms of dwarfism are caused by a single gene. The abnormal gene may be inherited from one of the parents, who also has the condition. Or, a change may occur spontaneously in a specific gene in either the egg or sperm, and a child's genetic make-up may be different from his or her unaffected parents: this change is known as a mutation. The majority of children with autosomal dominant forms of dwarfism, such as achondroplasia, are born to average-statured parents, and their dwarfism is therefore caused by a mutation. Specific causes of mutations associated with dwarfism are not known and parents should be reassured that nothing they did either before or during the pregnancy contributed to the mutation.

Autosomal dominant conditions can vary considerably in the degree of severity and, in some cases, a diagnosis may be difficult to make, particularly when the individual has a mild form of the condition. Hypochondroplasia is an example of a genetic form of dwarfism which can occasionally be so mild that it escapes detection in a routine physical examination. For genetic counseling purposes, it is vital to examine both parents of a child with dwarfism to ensure that one of them does not have a

mild form of the condition before proceeding with counseling.

The risk that an adult with an autosomal dominant form of dwarfism will have a similarly affected child will differ depending on whether or not the spouse is also dwarfed. If the spouse is of average stature, there is a 50 percent risk with each pregnancy for dwarfism in the child. There is an equal chance for male and female children to be affected. If the spouse is dwarfed, recurrence risks will depend on the spouse's specific diagnosis.

Couples who have given birth to a child with an autosomal dominant form of dwarfism due to a new mutation are not at increased risk of having a similarly affected child in a future pregnancy, nor are any other unaffected members of the family.

Autosomal recessive conditions are caused by a pair of identical genes acting together, one gene having been inherited from the mother and one from the father. The parents of a child with an autosomal recessive condition are called "carriers" (or heterozygotes) for the condition. In general, there are no tests to determine whether a person is a carrier of a specific form of dwarfism. The "carriers" are determined only after the birth of their first affected child.

Any couple who has had a child with an autosomal recessive form of dwarfism has a 1 in 4 chance of delivering a similarly affected child with each subsequent pregnancy. An adult with an autosomal recessive condition can have a similarly affected child only if he or she marries a carrier with the same condition (which would be rare) or someone who has the same condition.

X-linked forms of dwarfism are rarely encountered. They are caused by a gene which is located on the X-chromosome, either inherited from the mother or present in the egg due to a new mutation. Like autosomal disorders, X-linked conditions may be transmitted in a dominant or recessive manner. In general, only males are affected and affected males cannot transmit the condition to their sons. The recurrence risk in future siblings of the affected child is negligible for daughters and may be as high as 50 per cent for sons depending on whether the mother is a carrier. It may not be possible, however, to determine with certainy whether the mother is a carrier. The sisters and maternal female relatives can be carriers for these conditions and should seek genetic counseling before starting families.

Some of the more common forms of dwarfism are outlined in the following section. Within any given diagnostic category, clinical features will be variable and most children will not encounter all of the potential complications associated with their diagnosis. More detailed information about all forms of dwarfism is available in the medical literature, but is highly technical. An excellent pamphlet entitled "Achondroplasia" is available through the Human Growth Foundation 4930 West 77th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55435.

## ACHONDROPLASIA

Achondroplasia is the most common form of short-limbed dwarfism, occurring in approximately 1 in 50,000 live births. It is an autosomal dominant condition with 85 per cent of cases being due to new mutation. The average age of unaffected fathers of achondroplastic children is slightly higher than that of fathers in the general population.

Achondroplasia is recognizable at birth and the diagnosis can be confirmed by the presence of typical radiological findings. The limbs are disproportionately short, particularly the upper arms and thighs (rhizomelia). The face is characteristic with a prominent forehead, a depressed nasal bridge and a slightly prominent lower jaw. The hands are short and the fingers stubby. Loose jointedness may be present due to lax ligaments.

Early motor progress may be slow due to delay in head control, short limbs and hypotonia ("floppiness"); however, catch-up usually begins around two years of age and ultimately, final motor development is normal. Head size increases rapidly in infancy and is often erroneously diagnosed as hydrocephaly. Hydrocephaly is uncommon in achondroplasts and if present, it may require surgical treatment.

The legs commonly become bowed in childhood and surgical intervention may be necessary. Achondroplastic infants often have a lumbar gibbus (a hump in the lower spine) which gradually evolves

into lumbar lordosis (swayback) after the child begins bearing weight. The degree of lumbar lordosis is quite variable and some physicians recommend back-bracing with the idea that this procedure may reduce future back trouble. The narrowing of the spinal canal in the achondroplastic adult may lead to spinal cord or nerve root compression for which surgical decompression may be required. Hip disease at an early age in a dwarfed adult is not, in general, characteristic of achondroplasia.

Adult height ranges between 48 and 53 inches. General health is good and the life span is not reduced. Intelligence is normal. Achondroplastic infants are predisposed to colds and sinusitis. Young children accumulate fluid in the middle ear and may develop associated ear infections due to an abnormal drainage angle of the tube from the middle ear to the throat. Orthodontic care (braces) are generally required due to crowded teeth. Speech defects are common in childhood, especially tongue thrust.

## HYPOCHONDROPLASIA

Hypochondroplasia resembles achondroplasia but the features are much milder. Hypochondroplasia may be unrecognized at birth as birth length may be within the lower limit of normal. The head and face are minimally involved. Short stature is recognized in early childhood. The limbs are disproportionately short and the trunk relatively long. Mild lumbar lordosis is common. Mild bowing of the legs may be present in childhood but often resolves spontaneously. Movement of the elbow joints may be limited. Neurological complications of the lower spine are uncommon. Ear infections are uncommon. Intelligence is usually normal. Adult height ranges between 52 and 58 inches.

It is an autosomal dominant condition and a larger proportion of cases are familial than in achondroplasia. The severity of the condition is very variable and may cases are probably overlooked or mislabeled as familial short stature. The incidence of hypochondroplasia is unknown but it may be as common as achondroplasia.

## DIASTROPHIC DYSPLASIA

Diastrophic dysplasia is a rare form of short-limbed dwarfism recognizable at birth. It is inherited as an autosomal recessive disorder with a 25 per cent risk of recurrence in brother and sisters of affected individuals. The variability of expression is wide. Adult height ranges from 34 and 49 inches.

Club feet are present at birth. The hands are broad and short with proximally set thumbs held in a "hitch-hiker" position. The patient may be unable to bend his fingers. Cleft palate is present in 25 per cent of patients. There are multiple joint contractures particularly of the hips and knees, which may also dislocate. After birth the upper portion of the external ear may be swollen; the swelling later subsides leaving a cauliflower deformity. The middle ear may be abnormal with resulting impaired hearing.

The spine is relatively normal at birth but lumbar lordosis and curvature of the spine (kyphoscoliosis) develop during childhood. If the kyphoscoliosis is severe, it may predispose to respiratory and neurological problems.

## CARTILAGE-HAIR HYPOPLASIA (METAPHYSEAL CHONDRODYSPLASIA) (MCKUSICK TYPE)

This type of short-limb dwarfism is often recognized at birth because of reduced body length but X-ray changes may not be present until 9 - 12 months of age. Cartilage-hair hypoplasia is an autosomal recessive condition which can be quite variable. It was first described as a condition common among the Amish but has since been recognized in other groups as well.

The head and face are not involved. The hair is fine, sparse and light-colored. The trunk is fairly long with a prominent breastbone and mild flaring of the lower ribs. Joint hyperextensibility and ligamentous laxity are present and particularly pronounced in the hands and feet. A bowleg deformity commonly develops. Adult height ranges between 42 and 48 inches.

Intestinal malabsorption may be present in childhood. Cellular immunity is commonly deficient and patients are

achievement, but intelligence is normal. Lumbar lordosis (swayback) and kyphoscoliosis (curvature of the spine) may develop in childhood. Myopia (nearsightedness) or retinal detachment, or both, occur in 50 per cent of patients. Middle ear infections are not uncommon.

Height ranges between 34 and 52 inches. In the adult with SED congenita, osteoarthritis may develop in the weight-bearing joints and backache may be a problem. High spinal cord compression symptoms including increased fatigability and decreased stamina may occur.

Therapeutic efforts should be preventive with careful neurological examination to detect early signs of cervical cord compression, as well as ophthalmological examinations for early detection of retinal detachment so that therapy can be promptly initiated.

## SPONDYLOEPIPHYSEAL DYSPLASIA TARDA

This type of short-trunk dwarfism is usually inherited as a X-linked recessive and therefore primarily affects males only. It is usually diagnosed around 12 years of age because of short stature and back pain.

Spine curvature usually develops in mid-childhood as the trunk becomes progressively shorter. The limbs remain uninvolved. The neck is relatively short and the chest is broad and barrel-shaped.

Adult height ranges between 50 and 62 inches. Pain in the back and legs is a common problem. Premature arthritis of the hips and shoulders is common and orthopedic procedures may be necessary if the degree of disability is great.

## MORQUIO SYNDROME (MUCOPOLYSACCHARIDOSIS IV)

Morquio syndrome is caused by an abnormal breakdown in the mucopolysaccharide keratan sulfate, a compound which is stored in body tissues and excreted in the urine. This biochemical disorder, resulting in a form of short-trunked dwarfism, is inherited as an autosomal recessive condition. It may be confused with spondyloephiphyseal dysplasia congenita but, a careful clinical examination and biochemical studies will differentiate the two disorders.

Children with Morquio syndrome appear normal at birth and are generally diagnosed at about 2 years of age because of prominence of the lower ribs. The spine gradually appears shortened and knock-knees may develop. The diagnosis of Morquio syndrome can be confirmed through physical examination, review of X-ray findings and biochemical studies on the urine. In addition, dental examination to include dental x-rays is essential. All patients with the Morquio syndrome have characteristically thin enamel in the baby teeth as well as the permanent teeth. The diagnosis of the Morquio syndrome in a patient with short stature should be looked upon with skepticism if the teeth are normal.

As the child develops, the breastbone will become more prominent (pectus carinatum) and the neck will be shortened. Many of the joints are excessively loose, particularly those of the wrist. The cornea may become cloudy but this is rarely of functional significance. A gradual hearing loss usually occurs beginning late in the second decade and a hearing aid may be required. Adult height ranges between 34 and 40 inches.

The cervical spine (the top portion of the spine in the neck area) is unstable and may cause cord compression. An early sign of cord compression is a decrease in endurance and weakness in the legs. Surgery is often required to stabilize the cervical spine and trauma to the head and neck region must be avoided because of the instability. Orthopedic procedures may also be needed on the knock-knee deformity.

## OSTEOGENESIS IMPERFECTA ("BRITTLE BONES")

Osteogenesis imperfecta (O.I.) is a group of at least six different genetic disorders. Affected individuals have bones which fracture easily, blue or grey sclerae (whites of the eyes), hearing loss and milky blue-brown teeth. However, not all of these signs are found in each affected person and not all are necessary to make the diagnosis of O.I. For example, some individuals with the disorder have normal sclerae and some have normal teeth. Although many individuals with O.I. are shorter than average, short stature is not a character-

prone to infection, especially during infancy and early childhood. There is an increased and often fatal susceptibility to chicken pox and exposure should be avoided. Affected individuals should not be vaccinated against smallpox as the reaction may be severe.

## ELLIS-VAN CREVELD SYNDROME (CHONDROECTODERMAL DYSPLASIA)

Ellis-van Creveld syndrome is an autosomal recessive form of short-limb dwarfism recognizable at birth by polydactyly (an extra finger or toe), short limbs, under-developed nails, and, in the mouth, extra muscle attachments and an irregular gumline. In 25 percent of cases, one or two teeth may be present at birth. The central portion of the upper lip is usually short. A congenital heart defect is present in about 50 per cent of affected individuals.

Infants with chondroectodermal dysplasia need to be carefully followed for cardiac and pulmonary complications associated with possible congenital heart defects an a narrow chest. There may be an increased frequency of pulmonary infections after infancy. Extra digits, if present, are generally removed shortly after birth. Some teeth are missing at birth and those which are present may be malformed and smaller than normal. Orthodontic care (braces) may be necessary and dental advice should be sought early.

Adult height ranges between 43 and 60 inches. Limb shortening occurs mainly in the distal portions (forearms and calves). A knock-knee deformity commonly develops and orthopedic surgery may be indicated.

## PSEUDOACHONDROPLASIA

Pseudoachondroplasia is a form of short-limbed dwarfism usually recognized at 2-4 years of age because of delay in walking and short stature. The body proportions are similar to achondroplasia but the head and face are not unusual. The condition can be inherited either as an autosomal dominant or, less commonly, as an autosomal recessive.

The fingers are short and there is a prominent enlargement of the wrists. The joints may be lax. Some individuals with pseudoachondroplasia have scoliosis, "knock-knees" or bowed legs which may require surgery. Joint pain, particularly in the knees and hips, can occur because of degenerative arthritis and hip replacement may be required later in life. Adult height ranges between 32 and 51 inches.

## MULTIPLE EPIPHYSEAL DYSPLASIA (MED)

Multiple epiphyseal dysplasia includes a number of conditions involving changes in the epiphyses or the growing ends of the long bones. Most often, the condition is inherited as an autosomal dominant. There is a great deal of variability in MED and the degree of short stature may be minimal. Adult height ranges between 54 and 60 inches.

This condition usually becomes evident by mid-childhood and may be first recognized because of a waddling gait or slow growth. The joints may be prominent and are frequently painful with restricted mobility. The hands are broad with short fingers. Intelligence is normal.

The joint deformities associated with MED usually increase with age. Degenerative arthritis in early adulthood is a common complication. Total surgical hip replacement may be necessary in adulthood.

## SPONDYLOEPIPHYSEAL DYSPLASIA (SED) CONGENITA

This rare disorder can be detected at birth as a form of short-trunked, rather than short-limbed dwarfism. SED congenita is generally an autosomal dominant condition and most cases are sporadic (no one else in the family is affected). There are also rare forms of SED congenita that are autosomal recessive and X-linked so a careful family history should be obtained prior to genetic counseling. As with achondroplasia, the average age of fathers of sporadic cases may be increased.

At birth, the face is somewhat flat, the eyes widely-spaced, and a cleft palate may be present. The neck is short. Club foot may occur. Extension of the elbow joints is limited and the hips are sometimes dislocated.

Hypotonia and lax ligaments contribute to a delay in motor milestone

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istic of all patients and heights of over 6 feet have been recorded. Fractures may be present at birth, or may not begin to occur until later in infancy, during childhood, or sometimes not event until adulthood.

No medication has been proven to prevent fractures from occurring. Orthopedic management consists of rodding, bracing, casting or combinations thereof. Early dental care is necessary to prevent premature wear of the primary teeth, and dental consultation should be sought soon after the first tooth erupts. Hearing loss occurs in 50 percent of patients with O.I. and does not usually begin until late in the teenage years or early twenties. A hearing aid may be necessary.

Children with the most severe forms of O.I. and the greatest number of fractures frequently have no family history of the disorder. Unfortunately, parents of these children may be accused of child abuse when they seek treatment for fractures, without the possibility of O.I. being considered. If there is a family history of fractures in other relatives, medical personnel should be told immediately.

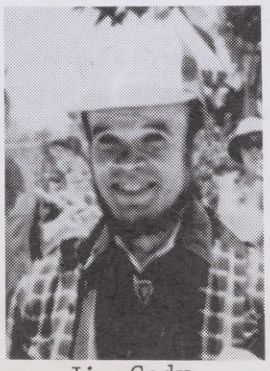
Osteogenesis imperfecta can be either an autosomal dominant or an autosomal recessive disorder. The recurrence risk will depend on the type of O.I. in each particular family, and can range from zero to 50 percent. Therefore, genetic counseling after the birth of a child with O.I. should not be done until there has been careful evaluation of the parents and brothers and sisters to rule out mild O.I.

If you want more information concerning short stature individuals and their needs, you can contact the Short Stature Clinic at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and ask for Nancy Garcia, Coordinator at (213) 533-3667.

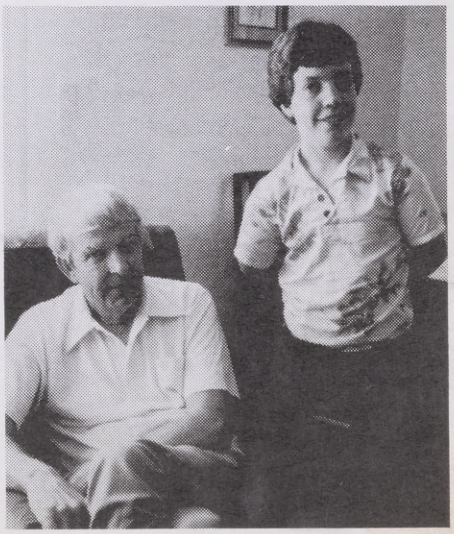
Tanya Harold

Bill & JoAnn Norvell with son, Danny.

Wendy Simmons



Jim Cady



Jerry Longley and son, J.J., from Santa Barbara.

# The Dwarf Who Wants To Be a Cop

**Boston**

Although he stands only four feet, three inches tall, Burton Gutterman wants to be a policeman. But he says the other men in blue are afraid a dwarf will hurt their image.

The Boston Police Department, in order to hire more women, recently eliminated its height requirement, and Gutterman has passed the usual tests.

"There's nothing in the Civil Service regulations that says a dwarf cannot be a policemen," Gutterman says. So he tried to join the force.

Last March, Gutterman, 25, of Boston, passed the police exam with a grade of 90.48. The lowest passing grade is 61.

In May, Gutterman took a physical exam, and the doctor said he passed that test, too, although he has achondroplasia.

Gutterman says there is absolutely nothing wrong with him, and achondroplasia is just another name for the form of dwarfism with which he is inflicted.

But Michael Donovan, an aide to the police commissioner, says achondroplasia could hinder Gutterman's performance as a policemen.

After he passed his physical, Gutterman received a letter from Michael P. Gardner, the police department's personnel director, saying he wanted the applicant to consult with an orthopedist and a specialist "to determine if your condition will render you ineligible for a position with the department."

To this, Gutterman replies: "I think they are just giving me the runaround. If I pass those tests, will they just set up more roadblocks?

"I think they are afraid people will say: 'There's a midget on the Boston police.' "

Now Gutterman and the police are at an impasse. The young man refuses to see the extra doctors unless the department pays the bills. And the police refuse to go along with that.

But Gutterman, who graduated from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst in 1977 with a degree in psychology, has not given up his goal of becoming a policeman.

"It's an exciting career, and I'd make a good one," he says. "I think personally I'm a damned smart guy and would make a hell of a detective."

Gutterman started thinking of becoming a policeman when he was 15 and a friendly policeman told him he'd make a good detective.

*Associated Press*

*AP Wirephoto*

**Burton Gutterman, who is four feet three inches tall, was greeted by Boston policeman Kenneth Jameson**

**SAL IBARRA, RISING SUN DRUG ABUSE CENTER COUNSELOR**
**'You Know You'll Always Be a Dwarf And So You Have to Learn to Accept Yourself."**



Stockton (Calif.) Record Sunday, Oct. 9, 1977 17

*by Norma Halsenberg*
Tracy Record Correspondent

TRACY—Sal Ibarra and Carolyn Boursse know about each other, but they have never met. Although they enjoy similar lifestyles and work with large groups of people daily, they probably never would have heard of each other if it weren't for the one major thing they have in common— their size.

Carolyn, a language teacher at Tracy High School, and Sal, a counselor at the Rising Sun drug abuse center, are dwarfs.

As dwarfs, they are members of one of the smallest minority groups in the United States. There are approximately 100,000 dwarfs in the United States today and, like other recognizable minority groups, they are plagued by discriminiation, prejudice, ignorance, and unemployment.

They also are deprived of many of the conveniences taller people take for granted: Being able to reach the dial of a public telephone, finding restroom facilities they can reach, being able to go into a store to buy readymade clothing and shoes.

Most important, they often are deprived of being accepted as mature, intelligent, unique human beings without having to prove it beforehand.

Sal, who is 24 and is 3 feet 11½ inches tall, is in the process of getting his counseling credential through University of the Pacific. He was born in McAllen, Texas, but the family moved to Lodi in 1960. He graduated from Tokay High School in 1973 and is convinced the discrimination against minorities is nothing compared to the discrimination against dwarfs.

"I don't thing I've ever really been put down for being a Chicano, but I know I've been put down for being short," he explains.

Carolyn is 33, 3 feet 10 inches tall and weighs 74 pounds. She has been teaching French and English at Tracy High for the last 10 years, ever since she got out of college.

A native of Santa Paula, she graduated from Santa Paula High School and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at Stanford University. In between, she studied in France for two years.

Sal and Carolyn are the only dwarfs in their families. Their parents, brothers and sisters are all "normal" size.

Sal's parents separated when he was very small, and he was raised by his mother, Amalia Salinas, who still lives in Lodi, and his two older brothers. He also has two older sisters and a younger brother.

Carolyn's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Strange, still reside in Santa Paula. She has two older sisters, who are also teachers, and a brother who is an optometrist in Carmel.

Carolyn and Sal were the only dwarfs in their communities, which, they feel, made growing up as dwarfs far more painful. They both feel that small-statured children should grow up knowing other "small" children, and they agree that one of the most painful periods in their lives came during high school when other teenagers started dating and they started being excluded.

"There was no dating for me in high school," Carolyn recalls. "I was in music, so I had a lot of friends, and I kept thinking that I would eventually be participating in the things my friends were doing. I kept waiting, but nothing happened. When it came to dates, I found I wasn't included."

Carolyn remembers that it was the same in college. She was a sophomore before she was first kissed. Part of the problem, she feels, lies in the way normal-sized people view little people. They forget, she believes, that small people are pretty much the same as they are.

Sal feels he was lucky to have been born a male dwarf instead of a female simply because he could always be the aggressor in dating. He didn't have to sit around and wait. He could call and, if he was accepted, fine. If not, it was all

# ople' With Giant Spirits

**CAROLYN BOURSSE, TRACY HIGH SCHOOL LANGUAGE TEACHER**
**" Students Will Respect a Teacher If They Choose To, Regardless Of What Size They Are."**

Record Photos

right, too.

"My mother really helped me out by not helping me," he explains.

"She didn't protect me. When I wanted to ride a bike, my brothers built me a bike I could ride and I took my falls like everyone else. As I got older, I had all the experiences of other kids. I wasn't kept in my room because I was different. I was thrown out of the house like any other kid, I was punished, and I was spanked like everybody else."

Sal believes he couldn't be doing what he is doing now if he hadn't been brought up the way he was.

Carolyn was brought up a little more protected than Sal.

"My parents gave me lots of love and attention. They gave me all kinds of lessons and lots of support, but they didn't push me physically. They didn't stress exercise. I was always carried or I was in a wheelchair. Consequently I grew up with no concept of my physical limits."

Part of the reason Carolyn didn't walk too much was because she had extremely bowed legs and, when she did walk, it was on her ankles. Several operations corrected the condition, but she wore leg casts for a long time. She is extremely proud of the fact she went hiking for the first time in her life earlier this year.

Carolyn's parents actually kept her away from little people in the belief that it was better to raise her among "normal" people. This type of protection can cause a lot of problems for dwarf children.

Sal remembers the frightening experience that meeting another dwarf for the first time was to him.

He was in the fourth or fifth grade, and he and his friends rode their bikes to a supermarket where Oscar Mayer and Co. was promoting its meat products by having "Little Oscar," a dwarf, give away wieners. When "Little Oscar" noticed Sal and called him, Sal ran inside the store, "completely freaked out," and hid. "Little Oscar" searched him out and told Sal he knew what he was experiencing and that it was all right. He gave Sal his card and asked him to call any time he needed someone to talk to. Sal never got in touch with him. He remembers being very defensive when it came to anything having to do with his size.

Recently Sal had a similar experience at San Joaquin General Hospital. He spotted a young dwarf girl in the waiting room and headed to greet her. She ran out and locked herself in her car.

Sal remembers how difficult it was to discuss the personal things that were bothering him as he was growing up.

"I had so many personal questions to ask, and I couldn't ask them. I thought of questions I had to ask, but there was no one to ask." He finally got in touch with a representative of Little People of America, an organization which currently boasts a total of 2,900 members and admits anyone who is 4 feet 10 inches or under, and he has been of great help to Sal. Carolyn also is a member of LPA.

Sal and Carolyn both have had to travel the road to self-acceptance. Sal remembers when he didn't want to deal with who he was at all.

Although Carolyn is bright, intelligent and extremely talented (she plays the piano, flute, piccolo and has sung with several choral groups, including the East Bay Chamber Singers), she just recently learned to deal with the "tiny" concept.

Carolyn also is convinced now that size makes no difference in a

(See Little, Page 18)

Continued

# 'Little People' Face Life With Giant Spirits

person. She has no problems gaining the respect of students in her classroom and believes that students will respect a teacher if they choose to, regardless of who they are or what size they are.

Carolyn is determined to discover all she can about herself—who she is and what she's capable of being. She has been testing both her intellectual and physical capabilities. She is an avid reader, is very interested in hypnotic therapy, and this past summer went on a long vacation to Colorado by herself, with a side journey to the Little People of America national convention in Portland, Ore. It was the first time she had ever attempted such a trip by herself and was really a test of her inner strength. She simply put a sleeping bag in her car and camped her way throughout Western Colo-do, meeting a lot of nice people the way, she says. She maintains wouldn't have missed the exper-ce for anything.

Both Sal and Carolyn have had successful marriage tries.

Carolyn was married for six ars to another small-statured person she met at a "Little People's" party. They were divorced last year. Although she and her ex-husband are still friends, Carolyn doubts she will marry again. Neither is she planning to have children.

Sal and his wife of a year, who is a normal-sized 5 feet 6 inches, recently separated and are in the process of a divorce. Although he feels bad about the break-up of his marriage, he is not saying he won't marry again. "If it happens, it happens," he says.

Although he would like to have children someday, he doesn't feel he would want to bring a dwarf child into the world.

"There's too much suffering," he says. "I wouldn't want to put a child through some of the things, some of the pain, I've been through."

(There are at least 75 possible causes of dwarfism, but most little people fall under two general categories. Achondroplastic dwarfs result from a bone disorder at birth. It is estimated that more than three-fourths of all dwarfs are of this type. Pituitary dwarfs, commonly known as midgets, are in the second category. They cease to grow in early childhood and rarely grow taller than 40 inches, although they are perfectly proportioned.)

Although Sal has been through a lot, he has a lot to give to others. As the nighttime crisis counselor at Rising Sun, he listens to a lot of problems, but he doesn't let them get him down. His dream is to establish someday a counseling center for "little people."

Sal and Carolyn have both become immune to stares from the curious. She appreciates the curiosity of little children because she feels it is natural. "I love that curiosity," she states, adding that she will usually try to talk to children who stare at her and to answer any questions they may have.

Sal feels the same way. Parents, he says, are sometimes the worst offenders. He has seen parents actually spank children for staring, thereby frightening them and making them connect bad feelings with dwarfs. A better solution, according to Sal, would be to explain to children what dwarfs are. Teaching them to appreciate differences in human beings would be the best solution, he feels.

Carolyn believes that it is important for people, including little people, to pick their friends on the basis of common interests, instead of on the basis of size.

Aside from social problems, one of the biggest problems for dwarfs is shoes and clothes, according to Sal and Carolyn. There simply are no shops for dwarfs.

Shoes are a particularly expensive item. Especially made shoes cost around $200 a pair. Fortunately, both Sal and Carolyn find sandals to fit them once in a while, and Sal solves his problem by going barefoot most of the time.

Carolyn's mother makes most of her clothes, and Sal's mother alters his pants and shirts to fit. Finding a suit for his wedding last year was a real hassle, Sal recalls. He finally ended up buying what he wanted and having his mother and sisters remake the whole thing to fit him.

Automatic shift cars have proved a blessing for small people, according to Carolyn and Sal. One of Sal's brothers built the extension pedals for his car, and Carolyn bought the extensions to her foreign automobile from a man who manufactures them in Los Angeles.

Using a public telephone is a serious problem. When it's necessary for Sal to make a call, he asks passers-by to insert the coin and dial the number for him. He recognizes this could be a real problem in an emergency.

The most serious problem facing dwarfs, however, is jobs.

"They're just so hard to find," Sal says, adding that he hates to see dwarfs exploited in enterprises such as midget wrestling, but he understands why so many dwarfs go into these areas.

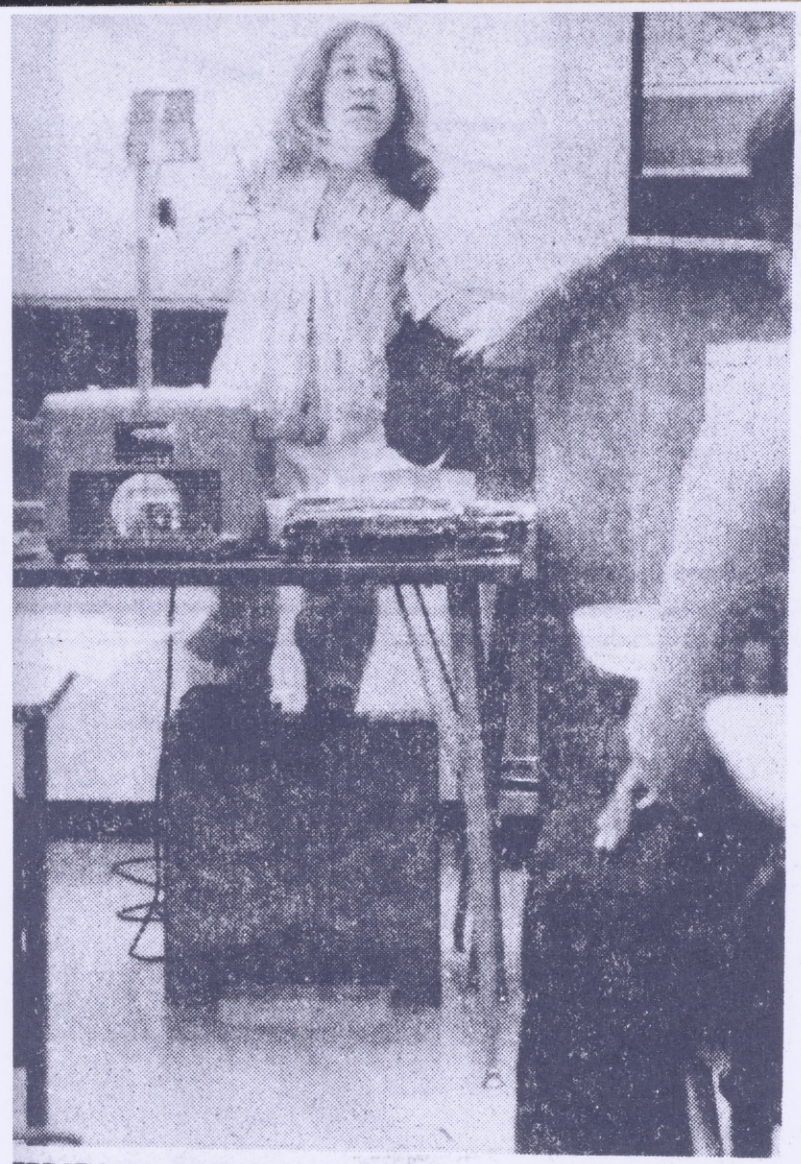
"I'd like to think that that is what they want to do, but it is just so hard for us to find jobs."

Carolyn agrees. She recalls that when she was looking for a teaching job she sent out countless applications, but received few appointments for interviews. She finally stopped offering the information that she was a dwarf.

Sal feels that dwarfs can be just about anything they want to be, if given the opportunity.

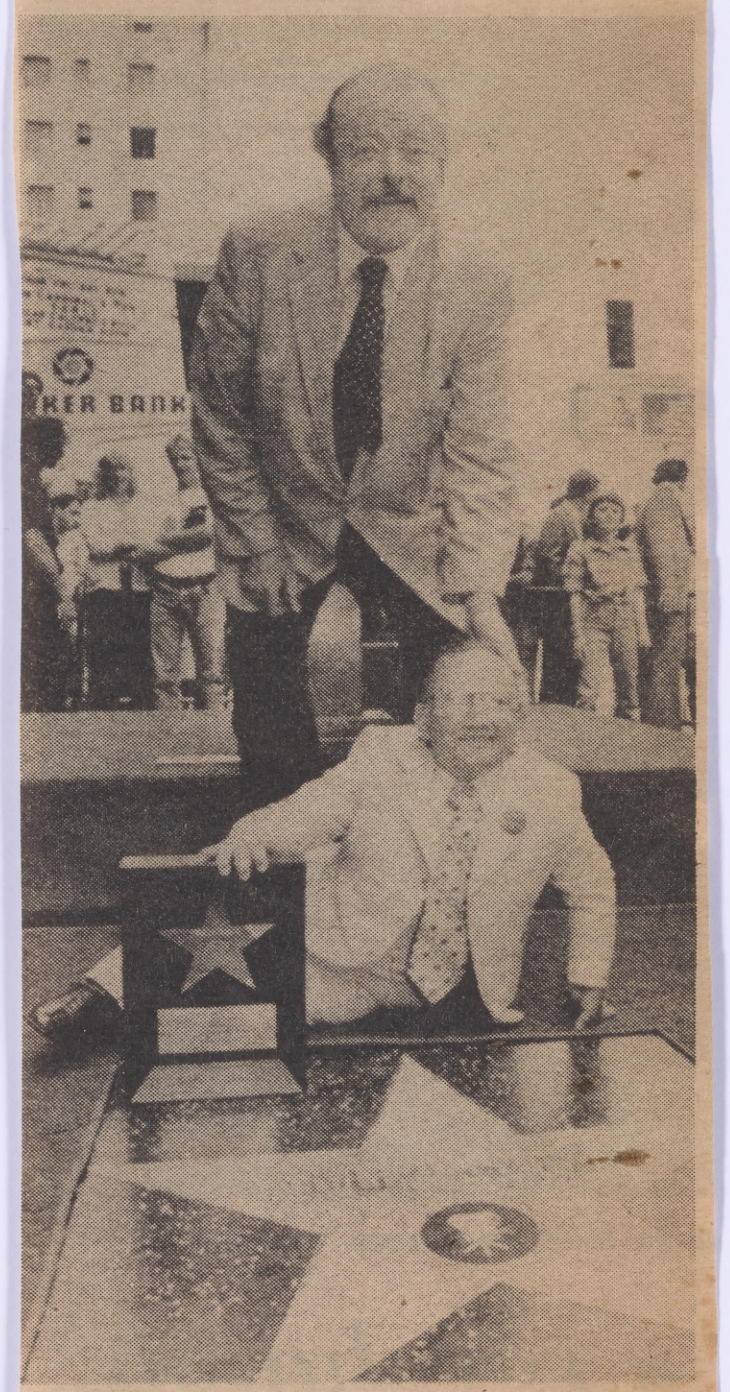
"Throughout my life people have been asking me what I want to be. Well, the only thing that I can't be is a basketball player," he states.

Another thing that dwarfs can't do, he says, is disappear into the system, "You know you'll always be a dwarf," he states, "and so you have to learn to accept yourself. If you don't like yourself, nobody else is going to like you. I happen to like myself."



TEPSTOOL GIVES 'LIFT' TO CAROLYN IN CLASSROOM
he Has Learned to Deal With 'Tiny' Concept in Her Life

TOMATIC SHIFTS, SPECIAL EXTENSION PEDALS BLESSING FOR SMALL PEOPLE
Going Barefoot Solves Problem of Finding Shoes for Sal



—AP photo

**BARTY GETS STAR** — Veteran actor Billy Barty, below, poses with writer and comic Pat McCormick on Hollywood Boulevard's Walk of Fame Wednesday following the unveiling of Barty's star along the famous sidewalk. Barty was honored for his more than 50 years in the entertainment industry in a variety of character roles.



# They're Young and Ready —

# Search—Rescue!

By JEAN DICKINSON
Times Staff Writer

MARTINEZ — As a U.S. Coast Guard chopper hovered overhead, John Montagh surveyed the lineup of four-wheel drive jeeps, horses, climbing ropes, diving gear and metal stretchers.

"This is not just about finding dead bodies," he said softly. "It's about saving lives — and that's instant gratification."

Montagh belongs to the 45-member Contra Costa County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team, which conducts annul equipment inspections and training exercises at the Martinez Marina.

All volunteers, team members are the unsung heroes of the sheriff's department, the men and women who painstakingly comb the hillsides in search of missing persons or pluck injured climbers off the slopes of Mt. Diablo.

Watching the U.S. Coast Guard instruct his colleagues on the art of helicopter rescues, Montagh stressed the life-saving aspects of his avocation. "We're helping so that others can live," he said, his voice still carrying traces of his Hungarian origins.

But in fact, the search and rescue team's efforts all too often end in the grisly discovery of a murder victim or a drowned child.

Most recently, members were called out to search Briones Regional Park for Richard Zeleny, a Lafayette jogger whose badly decomposed body was later found off Alhambra Avenue in Martinez.

In July, after three days of digging on a Rheem Valley hillside, search crews discovered the shallow grave of teenage murder victim, Lisa Anne Beery, who disappeared from her Oakland home five years ago.

Under crisp blue skies Nov. 18, search and rescue team members — including highly trained teenagers from local Explorer posts — arranged their equipment for an informal inspection by Sheriff Richard Rainey.

Pita, a 7-year-old bloodhound, wandered by with her owner as Rainey praised the group for its "extreme dedication."

"If we had to pay salaries to all these people, we could never afford this program," he said.

Nearby, a dozen members of Lafayette's Explorer Post 611 clustered around a tidy array of climbing ropes, hard hats, stretchers and first aid gear.

It was this unit that discovered Berry's skeletal remains in July — a grim find that startled the youngsters, despite their rigorous 100 hours of training at the Northern California Search and Rescue School.

"It felt very weird to find the bones of someone who would have been my age," said 15-year-old Debbie Eisenberg, a sophomore at Acalanes High School.

Brian Molyneaux, post president and a senior at Acalanes High School, agreed, adding, "Finding just bones was very different than discovering an actual body. I don't know how I'd react in the other situation."

Further along the line, members of another explorer post talked about the comradship that develops during both the numerous training exercises and the actual searches.

"We make it fun," said Katherine Goulden, vice president of Orinda's Explorer Post 233. "After all, it's a pretty dreary thing to be digging for a girl in Moraga or climbing about in poison oak for two days."

Like many of her fellow teammates, the Miramonte senior is a top-notch mountain climber who has earned high praise from the sheriff's department.

"These kids are great," said Sgt. Herman Rellar, director of the sheriff's reserve forces. "When the chips are down, they really come through."

Also participating in the review Sunday was Phil Annis, a four-foot-six-inch carpenter from Walnut Creek, reportedly the best tracker in the county.

Trained at the U.S. Boarder Patrol School in Barstow, Annis is the skilled practitioner of an ancient Indian art — gathering clues from minute bits of evidence, then following in the footsteps of the missing person.

"Sometimes I've spent up to two hours figuring out one footprint," he said. "It can be very slow and tedious work."

Nearby, two divers — Larry Stocking of Pleasant Hill and Ron Pike of Concord — talked about their work with the search and rescue team.

Besides going into the water in search of drowning victims, both men have been called out to dive for weapons and stolen property.

"Everytime you go down it's exciting, because it's strictly black water diving — you can't see a thing with that mud," said Stocking, who has a dozen years of underwater experience.

Pike nodded in agreement, recalling the time he and another diver ran out of oxygen while searching for a drowned child in lengthy siphon tube of the Contra Costa Canal in Pittsburg.

"It kind of makes your heart pound just a little bit to think you're not going to make it back up," he said with a shy smile.

**Phil Annis likes to get close to his work as one of the best trackers in the Bay area. The four-foot-six-inch search and rescue team member looks for minute details that may indicate a clue.**

# Almost Always Find Their Man

Some spectators watch a rescue helicopter as it lands during Contra Costa Search and Rescue Team equipment inspections held recently in Martinez.

By Eric Rahkonen

Pita — a tracking dog whose nose knows

From left, Scott Ferreira and Kathrine Gouldey of Orinda check their gear. Although young, the team members know their business — and like it.

WEST COUNTY Times

# 'Gilligan's Islan
# Bob Denver in L
# 3-Feet 11-Inch Co

Bob "Gilligan's Island" Denver says he's found a new leading lady in love. She's petite comedienne Patty Maloney — who's only 3-feet-11.

"I really love her. She's the sweetest woman I've ever met. When I first met her, I couldn't get over how sweet she was — and now she just keeps getting sweeter," rejoiced Bob, who's 5-feet-11.

A radiant Patty gushed: "I just love Bob — because he's so considerate. He has every quality I've ever looked for in a man.

"It never once made a difference that I'm so small. It might with others. But never with Bob," Patty smiled.

"I don't really consider myself a midget, just a very small person. I've been 3-feet-11 since I was 13 years old. I stopped growing at that age. But my tiny size certainly hasn't stopped me from having a wonderful, happy life."

The romance grew after Bob planted a gossip column item about him and Patty last June as a gag. Only a few weeks later, love blossomed. Explained Bob:

"I had only known Patty for about two weeks. We met while we were taping a new CBS children's series — 'Far Out Space Nuts.'

"We went out to lunch together a few times. But it was no serious romance at the time. I thought it would be kind of fun if I had a friend put a romance item about us in the trade papers — just to see what kind of reaction it would get from people."

Her eyes sparkling, Patty smiled, "Bob asked my OK to place the story. I told him I didn't object. And I remember thinking to myself, 'Wouldn't it be nice if it were true.' "

The item got a big response from their friends, who called up to ask if it were true.

"We both enjoyed a good laugh," said Bob. "And we began to feel that we really had a lot in common. Finally, about two weeks after the item appeared, I asked her out for a date."

Patty recalled: "Just the way he looked at me that night made me melt. And when he took me home, he said something at the door I'll never forget. He told me it was nice to meet a real lady. And then he kissed me good night."

A few days later, Patty went to Las Vegas where she performed with Totie Fields at the Sahara Hotel. Bob remarked, "It was then that I realized how serious we had become. When she left town, I missed her a lot. I didn't want to be without her."

Is marriage in the happy couple's future?

"We haven't talked about it yet," said Patty, 39, who was married once before.

Bob, 40, who has been married 3 times, said plans aren't firm, but added with a chuckle:

"When we do get married, Patty's going to be pretty easy to carry over the threshold."

— ERIC SHUMAN

**ROMANCE** started as a gossip column gag — now Bob Denver and Patty Maloney admit that love has blossomed.

## Neno and Mary Jane Carlino

# 'You can make it with a

By N. Z. CLARK

Until recently, when the stove and counters were lowered, Mary Jane Carlino walked on a box in her kitchen.

Standing 3 feet, 9 inches tall, she stood on the box as she cooked, maneuvering it with her feet by tipping from side to side until it moved like stilts. It was the only way she could work at the standard built-in cupboards in her Richmond Annex home.

Mary Jane Carlino is shorter than her husband Neno, who is 4 feet, 4 inches tall. The couple lives in a white and yellow home just off of Carlson Boulevard; their children are grown and gone and they have settled into retirement and are thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Neno says: "We are dwarfs, which means simply that we are shorter than most — our trunks are the same size but our legs and arms are shorter."

Medically, their type is known as achondroplastic dwarfism, but Neno says there are some 80 kinds in all and no one knows what causes it. Although at first glance they look unusual, they think and feel like everyone else and Neno says a dwarf who claims to be any different is pretending — "just an actor."

The Carlinos don't mind being called dwarfs or "little people," but they state emphatically that they are not midgets.

Neno says as far as he and Mary Jane are concerned, there is only one word they don't like; that word is "can't."

Like anyone else with limitations, "You can make it a hardship if you want to. All of us have tried to cash in on our size at some point in our lives — our brains work fine," he explains laughing.

He remembers the one time he said "I can't." He was four or five years old and his dad asked him to bring a saucer from a cupboard; when Neno said he couldn't reach it; his 200-pound father knocked him down, telling him "If that was candy up there you could get it."

He has four sisters, all ordinary size. His mother was average size, too; in fact, as far back in his family as can be recalled, there are no dwarfs. Mary Jane has the same family history with five siblings.

They say it took a lot of determination to raise their children, "but we made it. And the kids keep coming back." They are two average size girls, Peggy, 27, and Judy, 25, married and living in this area and two sons, who are small like their parents. Jack, 22, is married to a little person and they have a son, also a drarf, and Anthony, 20, still single.

In his big, gruff voice Neno declares seriously, "Our main goal is to take care of what's between our ears — education's a big thing for us." An El Cerrito High School graduate, he has been a newspaper vendor ("that's where I got my real education"), a welder and last before retirement, a metal sorter. "But," said Mary Jane, "it can be hard for us to get a job."

Once when he applied for a welder's job, Neno was accompanied by a full-size friend. The propsective employer could not comprehend that it was he, Neno, who wanted to work; he kept directing questions to the big man. They had to insist over and over, "Neno's the one." Finally, after demonstrating by welding a giant pipe, Carlino was hired.

Mary Jane, also a high school graduate, operated a general store in Oregon before meeting Neno at a Little People's convention in Las Vegas. At 61 he helps his wife, who is 53 and still recovering from spinal surgery several years ago, leaving her progressively in a wheelchair, on crutches and currently just using a cane.

The remodeled kitchen makes Mary Jane's work infinitely easier although she still has to step onto a low stool to reach the water faucets. The built-in oven is positioned at floor level, a countertop stove is mounted 28 inches high (the usual is 35 to 36 inches high). Roll-out shelves beneath the counters, Neno's carpentry, is for china, glassware, cookpots and staple groceries. Overhead storage is for seldom-used serving dishes.

The dishwasher and refrigerator are conventional; they use a pointed wand invented by a machinist friend, Bob East of Hayward, to snag food from the high freezer or to bring clothes from the bottom of the washer. Three wooden steps lead up to laundry appliances, stairs that put an ordinary person to a near-dizzying ceiling height.

By appearance, it's hard to tell which home furnishings have been shortened and which haven't. The dinette table is standard and so are the matching chairs; the legs have been somewhat shortened; Neno's easy chair is shorter; hers is standard. Closet rods are at mid-height.

Mary Jane says she makes most of her own clothes — it's easier and cheaper to start from

# 'Gilligan's Island' Star Bob Denver in Love With 3-Feet 11-Inch Comedienne

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Wednesday, January 30, 1980 People

# hardship if you want to'

**WHERE THERE'S A WILL** — Neno and Mary Jane Carlino work in the kitchen of their Richmond Annex home which he recently remodeled so that he and his wife, both "Little People," can work easily and efficiently.

Photo by Nick Schiller

scratch than to alter everything, she says. They're always looking for footwear. "It's hard to find anything in shoes — if anyone knows where women's shoes are being sold in our sizes, the news spreads among us like wildfire."

Neno's car has gas pedal and brake extensions. Mary Jane's has these also and she sits on a cushion to drive.

"I'm independent," says Mary Jane. "I've always wanted to do whatever anyone else could do."

Says Neno: "I don't know why I waited so long to remodel the kitchen — it's conditioning, I suppose. We've always just used the standard things."

## Little People of America

Neno Carlino says there is no way to determine when a dwarf might be born. Both parents can be normal size, both can be dwarfs, or any combination; there is just no way to predict. Even at birth it might not be noticable. Both he and his wife were 10-pound infants.

Sometimes when parents have a dwarf, it is a big shock, says Carlino, and some keep the child almost literally in the closet, tutoring it at home and shutting it in another room when guests arrive.

For this reason, he is very grateful for Little People of America, a world-wide organization of people like the Carlinos, originated by Billy Barty, formerly a comedian with the Spike Jones orchestra. "The parents wonder, 'What will happen to our child?' and it's a shame if they don't come into our club," says Carlino. "It's brought a lot of people off the shelves, but there are still some closet dwarfs right around here."

Neno and Mary Jane, charter members of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, are two of about 75 local "little people" who belong. Together with their families they have dances, outings and other social events. They also play softball, miniature golf or bowl, often in competition with The Tiptoppers, a club for extra-tall people. "We can beat them anytime," note the Carlinos with pleasure.

When parents see that super-small people can lead normal, happy, useful lives, "it gives them a big boost. But we also have an adoption agency for some parents who just can't handle it. Somehow they feel ashamed," says Mary Jane.

"The only distance we have to conquer is the distance between our ears," Neno states forcefully. "The group has done wonders in making people understand.

They urge anyone who might be interested in the club to call 526-6226.

# This San Lorenzo couple likes to think BIG!

By Margo Graham

There is nothing unique about remodeling a kitchen. But when Frank and Juanita Colla of San Lorenzo decided to make changes, things began to take on unusual dimensions.

A lowered sink, a definite threat of lumbar pain for normal-sized people, was a dire necessity for the couple, who are dwarfs.

"We think big, though," says Juanita, a disarming smile lighting up a face framed with gray curly hair. Deftly propelling herself about in her mechanical wheel chair, she glides through the widened entrance between the kitchen and dining room.

"Juanita made this," Frank says, taking a delicious Italian concoction with an aroma that fills the kitchen from a toaster oven.

"Frank makes a lot of Italian dishes and I make bread and cookies," Juanita says as she tends to her 2-year-old and 6-year-old grandchildren.

In the cheerful orange and brown kitchen, the sink and stove measure 27 inches high. The regular oven is lower, as are the counter tops. A door leading to the other part of the house was closed up to make the wall where the stove stands.

Frank, who has thick, dark hair and wears dark-rimmed glasses has tended bar at Fishermans' Wharf in San Francisco since 1948. "I stand on a stool to reach the cash register," he says.

"I go to work at 8 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays to set things up. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday my hours are 2 to 10 p.m. I'm off on Thursday and Friday.

Near a showy, crystal chandelier a picture of Frank's parents hangs on the dining room wall. "I was one of 15 children. My parents, brothers and sisters were all normal. I was number 15," he laughs.

Not to be outdone, Juanita boasts of a brother over 6 feet tall. Born of a small mother, she was one of four children of which two were small and two tall.

Of Juanita's two daughters, adopted by Frank, one was normal, the other undersized. There are presently seven grandchildren, all normal. A grandson, 8-year-old Brian, a third-grader, lives with the couple. "Brian makes beds, washes cupboards and helps me vacuum," Juanita says with grandmotherly pride.

The Collas' son-in-law, Alan Nichols, also a dwarf, comes by to pick up his son, Dan. Employed by Xerox Corporation, he is also a song writer. His country music score will be featured on a TV special and also in a musical comedy next year.

Alan talks about the three of them. "Frank and I are the most common type of dwarfs. Frank is the pituitary type. I am an achondroplasian dwarf. Juanita's type has a long, long name but is characterized by bone endings shrinking.

Frank is ever-mindful of Juanita's needs. Although he won't do the work himself because of a heart attack, he plans to have a wall torn out to enlarge the kitchen, combine it with a family room and add an extra large bath.

"I'm always bumping into the walls in the other one," Juanita says.

Photo by Rob Lindquist

The stove in Juanita Colla's kitchen was installed at 27 inches to accomodate her.

"Come here, I want to show you my Mother's Day gift," she says, leading the way down a special long wheelchair ramp out the garden gate to the driveway.

She eagerly demonstrates the use of lift which helps her and her wheelchair into a special Volkswagon hydramatic bus. A swivel seat quickly places her behind the wheel of the large vehicle.

A staph infection necessitated removal of one of Juanita's legs, but dual controls in the bus make it possible for either Frank or Juanita to drive.

"See, it's full of push-buttons. Frank had the Helpers of California change it over for me. He was pretty worried once when the lift became stuck, but it was because two buttons were pushed at the same time," she says.

Juanita is a former supervisor at Goodwill Industries in Oakland. There she also trained mentally disturbed persons to hold jobs. The couple has also taken care of foster children.

She is busily caring for her grandchildren and is making Christmas ornaments. Of her grandchildren, Juanita says, "I don't care if they're normal as long as they're healthy."

In their home, a center of activity, both Frank and Juanita think big and absolutely nothing deters them.

# 'Little people' convene for 25th anniversary

**Reno, Nev.** —AP— Engineers, actors, attorneys and hundreds of others who stand no higher than a hotel reception desk gathered here to celebrate the 25th year of an organization that teaches little people they too can think big.

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There was dancing for teenagers, softball, basketball and time for sightseeing at the anniversary meeting this week. And there were workshops on genetics, jobs, schools and clothing.

"The purpose of the organization is to let little people and their parents come to grips with their short stature," said Lee Kitchens, a 52-year-old engineering manager with Texas Instruments in Lubbock, Texas, and a past president of the Little People of America.

"Short stature does not automatically mean that we are short on brain power," Kitchens said. "It's a genetic snafu. It's no different fron red hair or blue eyes."

The organization, born in Reno, was the invention of actor Billy Barty. It began with about 20 members. It now has more than 3,000.

# Short in height, tall in heart

By MARVIN WAMBLE

James Stewart didn't realize there was something "different" about his mother until his first day of kindergarten about 12 years ago.

When his mother took him to class that day, "everyone was staring at her," he said with a voice that registered the confusion he must have felt. "I thought, 'What's wrong with my mom?' "

It was the first time he really noticed that his mother, who is 3 feet 10 inches tall, was not the same height as the other parents.

"My teacher thought it was cute that I had to bend down to kiss my mother goodbye," he recalled.

Nowadays, Stewart is a leggy 6-footer who says his mother's height "doesn't affect me. She's just my mom."

Adaptation in a family that has a dwarf as a parent or child comes quickly, according to several family members who are in Reno this week for the Little People of America Inc. convention. They insist their families face the same trials and tribulations as any other family unit — with a few small exceptions.

Stewart said he has learned to "curve" his aggressions toward others' reactions to his mother's size.

"It's fine if a little kid comes up in the store and looks at her," said Stewart, a 17-year-old bass player in a punk rock band in his hometown of Cerritos, Calif. "But some of them have to follow her around the store or go get more kids. The next thing you know, there is a whole parade of kids following her around the store yelling, 'Midget, midget.' That gets me mad.

"If their parents would just sit them down and take the time to explain to them why people are different, there would be a lot less prejudice," he said.

Stewart has to watch out for his mother at times, because "she tends to have a big mouth," he said, looking down on his mother as they sat in Harrah's convention center.

"You've heard of the overly protective mother," said Betty Stewart, 52, a divorced mother whose other son, 13-year-old Billy, is a dwarf. "Well, this is the overly protective son."

As for his friends, "I just introduce her," Stewart said. "If they don't like it, they don't have to come over. But all my friends like my mom — they call her Mom. They don't care if she is small or tall or whatever."

Mrs. Stewart's height doesn't bother her, either.

"I never considered myself being small," she said. "The group of people I hang out with are all of average stature and I always dated taller people. When you are born with this handicap, you learn to adapt."

PHOTO BY JEAN DIXON

Betty Stewart is flanked by her sons, Billy, left, and James.

Mrs. Stewart drives a large Oldsmobile (with the help of brake and accelerator extensions). "I love big cars," she said.

"It's a psychological thing," Stewart teasingly interjected.

There was no great debate or visit to a genetic counselor when the Stewarts, who were married for 13 years, decided to have children. "Everyone knows the chances of it (having a dwarf) happening. But neither one of us gave it a thought," said Mrs. Stewart. Her husband was 5 feet 6, her mother and one sister are small, and her father, brother and other sister are "average size." (Little people prefer using "average" rather than "normal.")

"I don't think we cared one way or another," she said. "We had a healthy child and we were happy."

Mrs. Stewart also raised five "average" step-children.

For Dr. Don Jewett and his wife, who are both average size, having a dwarf child came as quite a shock.

"It was very hard," explained Jewett, who works at the University of San Francisco Medical Center. He explained that in most cases dwarfism cannot be detected until a child is about 3 years old.

"She was an average-length baby when she was born. But when I stopped plotting her growth, she stopped growing," he said.

"Maybe that was the problem," said his daughter, Bethany, 17. "Maybe you shouldn't have stopped plotting." They both laughed.

"It was a great shock to me. I suppose I had the usual parent reaction: 'This is a terrible thing to happen to my child and what can I do about it?' " he said.

But Jewett, who has been associated with L.P.A. for 10 years, no longer feels that way.

"I don't think it's terrible. Basically, we all have abnormalities. I may be an emotional dwarf. There are people who can't go into a group and feel comfortable; that is also a form of dwarfism."

Jewett, who was married 25 years before his divorce and also has an average-sized 19-year-old daughter, prepared Bethany for some problems and questions she might face because of her size.

If someone asked Bethany why she was so small, her answer might be, "Why do you have blue eyes?" or "I donated my legs for a leg transplant."

One of the biggest questions the Jewetts faced was, "Will this affect what our child can do?"

The answer came when they attended their first L.P.A. meeting. They met little people who were doctors, lawyers, engineers, etc. "It became clear that this was not going to stop our child from going on."

Bethany is now a senior at Lick-Willmerding High School in San Francisco. She wants to study psychobiology at a university in Oregon or in the East.

Bethany, who has had several operations, said she has learned to accept her size because "I'm pretty extroverted to begin with and it all depends on how you feel about yourself."

Carl and Darlene McGregor felt great about each other when they met during a St. Patrick's Day party in Alameda, Calif.

Mrs. McGregor, who is 4 feet 1, was out "having a good time" with another little person. McGregor (5 feet 8), who had dated Darlene's friend, said he sat down and started "a little small talk."

"That was in March and we didn't start dating until July," said Mrs. McGregor. After several months, the couple went to a Little People of America convention in Las Vegas and got married. That was 14 years and two children ago.

McGregor said his wife's size had "no play in our meeting. It's difficult to explain, but she's just a woman like anyone else. It's just like you marrying a woman who is a few inches shorter than you."

A marriage between an average-sized person and a dwarf is called a "mixed marriage." McGregor said he did have some "fear" concerning what his parents' reaction might be when they found out he had married a dwarf. "But no comment was ever made."

Mrs. McGregor got plenty of negative feedback. "I had problems with other little people," she said. "They wanted little people to marry little people. They said the marriage wouldn't last, but there are divorces among little people, too."

She said the general feeling among dwarfs was that an average-sized person would only marry a dwarf "because of the novelty."

"That attitude has changed," she said. "But there was a lot of animosity toward mixed marriages."

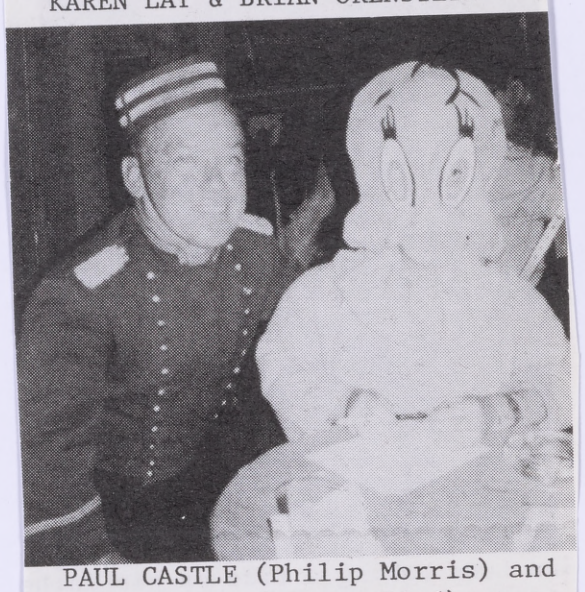
Their children, ages 9 and 13, are taller than their mother. "They can get out of hand," she admitted. "It's great when he is around the house. I can't run after them or anything like that. I have to use my mouth.

"When they were smaller, I had a little more control, now they have a mind of their own."

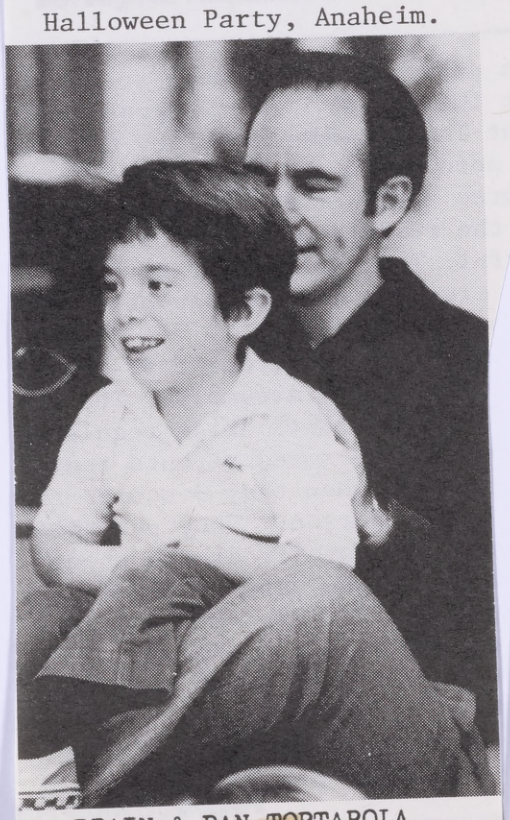
Mrs. Stewart drew the conclusion mentioned by all the families: "There really isn't any difference between little people and other people. Once people realize there is no difference, we won't be a novelty.

"After all, we eat, drink and sleep just like everyone else."

KAREN LAY & BRIAN ORENSTEIN



PAUL CASTLE (Philip Morris) and MIMI BECKER (Tweety Bird) at Halloween Party, Anaheim.



BRAIN & DAN TORTAROLA

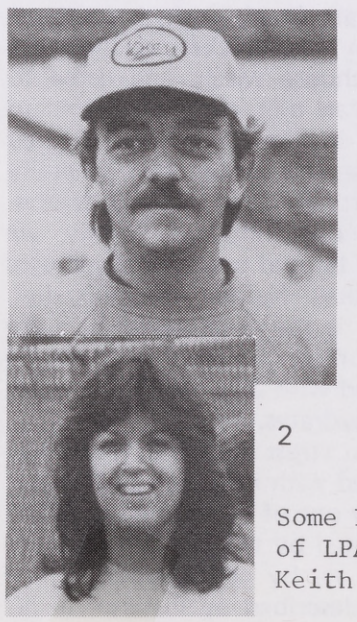
Shirley L. & Paul Holtsclaw
Paul would like to personally thank every one for coming!!!

**Matthew McCarthy, (7) preparing for Law or Medical School?**

Darcy Painter with Parents!!
**Eileen & son Jeffrey Ocone(3**

Space Hunters Film Group

Top:Michelle Hamilton,13 and Monique,10



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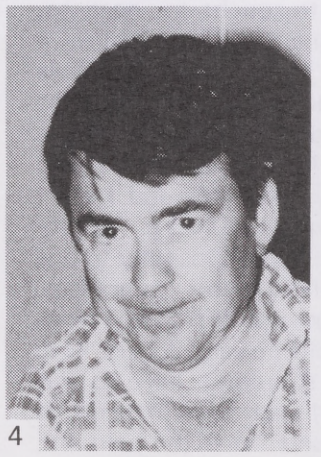

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Some Familiar faces in the Los Angeles Chapter of LPA. 1. Jimmy Brisco 2. Pam Grizz 3&4 son Keith and dad David Role 5. Debbie Carrington

79

# The Rice brothers: Think big, fly high

Greg (left) and John Rice with their specially equipped Cadillac.

By MARLENE MICHELSON
Real estate editor

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE — "You've gotta have a gimmick," according to the song from the musical, "Gypsy."

John and Greg Rice have quite a little gimmick, but theirs came quite naturally. They were born with it. They are identical twin dwarfs.

What they lack in size, however, they make up for in "thinking big." They're successful real estate men, who tour the country talking about motivation, about positive thinking.

"We've taken two lemons," they say, "and made lemonade."

At 29, the pair falls short of a yardstick by three inches. They hail from West Palm Beach, Fla., where their firm, Think Big, Inc., is headquartered. Abandoned at the hospital when they were born, they were adopted.

When Greg joined a direct sales organization in his last year of high school and earned enough for a downpayment on a Camaro, John decided to follow in his footsteps. From that they went into real estate and sold 57 homes in their first year. Now they are globetrotters, talking about success and setting goals and turning things around to the positive side.

The Rice brothers, whom many people have seen on "Real People," were here to speak Nov. 11 at the fall conference of Better Homes Realty. They are bright, witty, charming, immaculate dressers and handsome little devils. A friend of theirs commented that "you should see the women these guys escort around Hollywood."

Although they had to climb up onto chairs and sit on their feet to reach their food at lunch, they are not short on conversation. They had just spent a week talking about motivation aboard a cruise ship. They're working on a pilot for a television series called "That Awful Quiz Show," which they hope will air in January. One of the diminuitive philosophers said people spend a lot of money improving their homes, but not themselves.

When one of them was asked if he wanted coffee with his lunch, he told the waiter that he didn't. "It stunts your growth," he said.

The twins had to climb onstage to deliver their luncheon talk, which was peppered with one-liners and personal examples of how to succeed. Here is a Rice brothers sampling:

**Greg:** John and I don't enjoy rejection. We had to learn how to turn that rejection around.

The first person I met at college was a guidance counselor who told me I might not be able to do it. Later, we were called to go back and speak at the college. We drove up in a Cadillac. The first person to greet us was the guidance counselor, who said, "I always knew you'd make it." He had robbed people of their dreams.

Live in the village of Anything's Possible. That village is in our minds.

**John:** If we worked as hard at our jobs as we do at our vacation ... People stay up all night in the name of vacation. They dance, close bars, get burnt to a crisp, all in the name of fun. If we all did our jobs that way ... Have fun doing what you're doing.

I had a flat tire. I thought, "Man, that's great. Three of them stayed up." Something like that would ruin some people's day. I wasn't going to let it affect me. I had no control over that situation.

I don't want to discourage you but before we got into this business we were six feet tall.

We don't plan to fail, we fail to plan. Set goals. Let people know what they are so they can share in your success. Most people are afraid of failure.

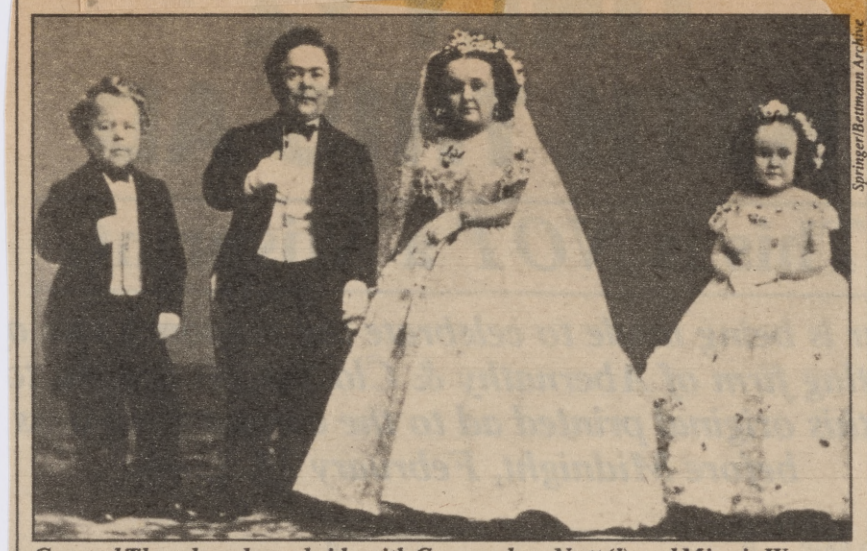
We had to try twice as hard to be average. When you're average, you're just as far from the top as you are from the bottom.

Thomas Edison tried 10,000 times to invent the incandescent light bulb. What if he'd stopped at 9,999?

You hear on the radio that there's a 30 percent chance of rain. It's really a 70 percent chance of sunshine. If you are lost and you ask someone how to get where you're going, they'll tell you to go down two stop lights and turn left. Why not go down two go lights? Use a more positive way of thinking. Start looking in a more optimistic way.

A person is not measured from the top of his head to the bottom of his feet, but from his shoulders to the sky.

Don't let anyone rob you of your dream.



Springer/Beitmann Archive

*General Thumb and new bride with Commodore Nutt (l) and Minnie Warren*

## The Smallest Big Wedding

Two thousand guests attended one of the smallest weddings of all time—that of the two most famous midgets in the world, Gen. Tom Thumb (3 feet 4) and Lavinia Warren (2 feet 8) on Feb. 10, 1863. The wedding was the focus of national attention. Six thousand people vied for the 2000 invitations to the media event of the year. The wedding presents included Chinese fire screens from President Abraham Lincoln.

Early on the morning of the wedding, throngs gathered outside New York's Grace Episcopal Church. Inside, people stood on pews to get a better look at the couple and their attendants, midgets Minnie Warren (Lavinia's sister) and Commodore Nutt. While the cream of society—as well as Congressmen, army generals and state governors watched—the bridal couple mounted a special platform and were joined in marriage.

At a hotel reception, the couple received their guests from the top of a piano, then cut into an 80-pound wedding cake, which was heavier than either of them. And to top it all, President Lincoln threw a lavish reception for them at the White House.

The Thumbs remained married for 20 years. They lived in a miniature apartment in the home of Tom's father, and they owned a scaled-down sailing sloop and horse carriage. After Tom's death at 45, Lavinia married a piccolo player named Count Primo Magri. He was 3 feet 9.

# The Little People stand table-tall at Reno convention

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Engineers, actors, attorneys and hundreds of others who stand no higher than a hotel reception desk gathered here to celebrate the 25th year of an organization that teaches little people they too can think big.

Harrah's hotel-casino built a platform at one craps table. And, so the 650 people who came from all over the nation to the Little People of America convention could reach the elevator buttons, the hotel provided rubber-tipped wands.

There was dancing for teen-agers, softball, a basketball game and time for sightseeing at the anniversary meeting this week. And there were workshops on genetics, jobs, schools and clothing.

"The purpose of the organization is to let little people and their parents come to grips with their short stature," said Lee Kitchens, a 52-year-old engineering manager with Texas Instruments in Lubbock, Texas, and a past president of the Little People of America.

He said that by helping them accept themselves as they are, the organization seeks to let little people "move out into society and become productive, useful citizens."

A quarter of a century ago, dwarfs were rejected by public schools and opportunities for jobs outside circuses were limited.

Today they are doctors and lawyers and members of other professions, but they are still struggling to be accepted by "average" people — a word they prefer to "normal."

"Short stature does not automatically mean that we are short on brain power," Kitchens said. "It's a genetic snafu. It's no different from red hair or blue eyes."

The organization was born in Reno, the invention of actor Billy Barty, and began with about 20 members. It now has more than 3,000.

"The most significant thing that a little person has to do is to be able to accept himself for his own net worth and to consider in context the statements and comments made by others," Kitchen said.

"Most of the comments you get right now as you walk down the street are from children, who are very honest; old people who are uninhibited; and the stupid and insensitive," Kitchens said.

Harrah's sought to avoid being insensitive. The hotel-casino installed ramps to the registration desk and lowered shower heads. Bob Martin, the vice president and general manager, said, "We're keeping an eye on the incidental things, like providing stools in the casino area whenever needed."

Members of the Little People come from all ethnic backgrounds and range in age from babies to people in their 70s. All are under 4-foot-10. Barty is 3-foot-9, Kitchens is 4-foot-1.

Proportioned dwarfs, incorrectly called midgets, usually are victims of malfunctioning pituitary glands, said Dr. Clair Francomano, a Johns Hopkins Hospital medical resident training in genetics. Most disproportioned dwarfs, who have short limbs but average-sized trunks, have achondroplasia, a failure of cartilage to form properly.

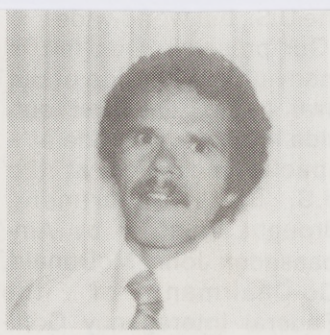
A score of medical specialists are here to counsel the little people and to study them. A medical advisory board hopes to develop centers in various parts of the country to treat little people.

"If we can make the general public aware that little people are no different from anyone else, in their wants and their hopes and their desires . . ." Kitchens said, "we will have overcome most barriers — barriers actually in the observer."

The Associated Press

Little People conventioneers give themselves a cheer in 'the biggest little city in the world'

**MARY CARTEN . . .**
**Presidential Candidate**



**CHARLES SECOR . . .**
**Presidential Candidate**

**GEORGE BAEHM, III . . .**
**Vice Presidential Candidate**

**LOIS LAMB . . .**
**Vice Presidential Candidate**

NEWS REVIEW PHOTOS

ENERGETIC HARDBALL TEAM ENTERTAINED CROWD

**Shown right before their Saturday night banquet, District Four members and friends gathered for their spring convention in Clearwater, Fla., April 22-24. Left to right, front, are David Stewart, Bobby VanEtten, Wayne Chapman, Melinda Townsend, Frances Binion, Dennis Binion. Joey Urban, and Glenn Summers; second row, Douglas Parks, Angelia Davis, Jack Cusumano, Henry Yoder, Cecil Guy, Jo Guy, Virginia Shipley and David Guy; third row, Carol Konopasek, Bobbie Jean McDonald, Pete Ojtozy, Mary Woodson, Pat Lang, Ed Lang, Ernest Siek, Sky Burr and Rev. Carl Houston; fourth row, Bill Albaugh, Rhonda Guy, Dr. Thomas Merimee, Marie Albaugh, Billie Davis, Patrick Mulcahy, Dorian Burr, Elizabeth Burr and Carmen Roudebush. A few who attended are not pictured.**

LABOR DAY at POOL (L to R) Serf Rocha, George Rossitto, Jimmy Briscoe, Kevin Thompson, Larry Green, and Amy Templeton!

# Short people get to laugh years longer

NEW YORK (AP) — A popular song of a few weeks ago suggested that short people have no reason for living. Now comes a magazine study indicating short men live longer than taller fellows.

In its July issue, Science Digest reports that U.S. presidents, shorter than 5 feet 8 inches lived an average of 80.2 years while those taller than 6 feet lived an average of 66.6 years.

Along with presidents, the magazine studied the life spans of successful businessmen, boxers and baseball players. A total of 750 men were studied.

The magazine concluded that "the shortest men in each grouping lived longer than the tallest group."

Among boxers, for instance, 18 who were shorter than 5 feet 8 inches lived an average of 71.8 years while 16 taller than 6 feet lived an average of 64.7 years.

The average height of American men now is 5 feet 9 inches, the magazine said.

(AP Laserphoto)

**ACTOR'S SON INJURED**

Veteran actor Billy Barty stands besides his son Braden, 6, after the boy was struck down by a car Thursday in North Hollywood. He was taken to a hospital with a broken leg.

**Mike Ain doesn't find baseball a problem** —UPI photo

# Dwarf just another Ivy Leaguer

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (UPI) — In a world where even a pay telephone is beyond his grasp, 4-foot-3 Michael Ain doesn't dwell on the inherent problems of playing baseball with his taller Brown University varsity teammates.

"I don't go about doing something and worrying about the problems I may face. I just don't think about it — like dialing a pay phone or getting in an elevator and reaching the buttons, I just go out and do it," Ain said.

At just a head taller than most baseball bats, Ain undoubtedly is the smallest member of any major college baseball team.

Perhaps not since colorful Bill Veeck put Eddie Gaedel in a St. Louis Browns' uniform has such a diminutive player taken the diamond at this level of competition.

By no means, though, is Ain a gimmick, Brown varsity coach Dave Stenhouse says.

"He's got a lot of guts, a lot of character, and good hands," Stenhouse said. "I know he enjoyed playing this year, and he was an integral part of the team."

Ain doesn't pay too much attention his small physical stature and wishes others wouldn't pay so much attention to it, either.

"When you wake up in the morning, you don't say to yourself, 'I'm 6-foot-2.' Well, when I get up in the morning, I don't say to myself, 'I'm short,'" Ain said.

The way Ain looks at it, he plays baseball. The fact that he's short is incidental.

"I really believe I can do anything I want to. And I know that sounds cocky," Ain said.

As Ain would insist, Stenhouse made no concessions for his size. He got less playing time this year because the 21-17 Bruins had plenty of talent.

"We had some guys who could really play and there was nobody I could cut just for the sake of getting Mike on the team," Stenhouse said. "We had a spot for player-manager. He was happy with it, and everybody else was."

Ain, 21, a pre-med student, just completed his first full varsity season. The previous year, as a freshman, the Roslyn Heights, N.Y., native batted in the role of designated hitter, getting 20 walks in 26 plate appearances.

He'd just as soon forget the 1982 season, during which he was hobbled by knee surgery over the winter.

"To be honest, I'm really looking forward to next year," said Ain, who had both of his knee joints broken and surgically mended with staples to correct his bowed legs. The staples remained in during the season.

Participating in sports is nothing new to Ain. He was an all-star in Little League, but he admitted, "I was shorter than everyone else then, but it wasn't a 2-foot difference." He also has wrestled, and was a member of Brown's crew team until baseball demanded too much of his time.

Ain said he has not encountered any ribbing from the fans, even though he said Ivy League crowds have a reputation for "ragging" visiting teams.

"Whenever I used to get up, nothing was said at all. It was real nice," Ain said. "Most of the ragging is fun, and ragging on me for my size would be malicious."

Outside the stadium, it's often a different story. "People can be very insensitive. Not just kids either," he said.

"It's tougher for pitchers to pitch to me," he admitted with a sheepish grin. "But on the college level, most can hit the strike zone."

His coach was impressed with Ain's hitting during a spring trip to Florida. "He hit the hell out of the ball ... I mean real legitimate hits," Stenhouse said.

Ain does allow himself some daydreaming.

"We played in (Pawtucket's Triple A) McCoy Stadium once, and after the game I just went in the locker room and looked around for minutes," he said. "It was great."

**That's Jack Carlino using the "popcorn machine". He's adding filler so that delicate equipment will be padded and protected during shipment.**

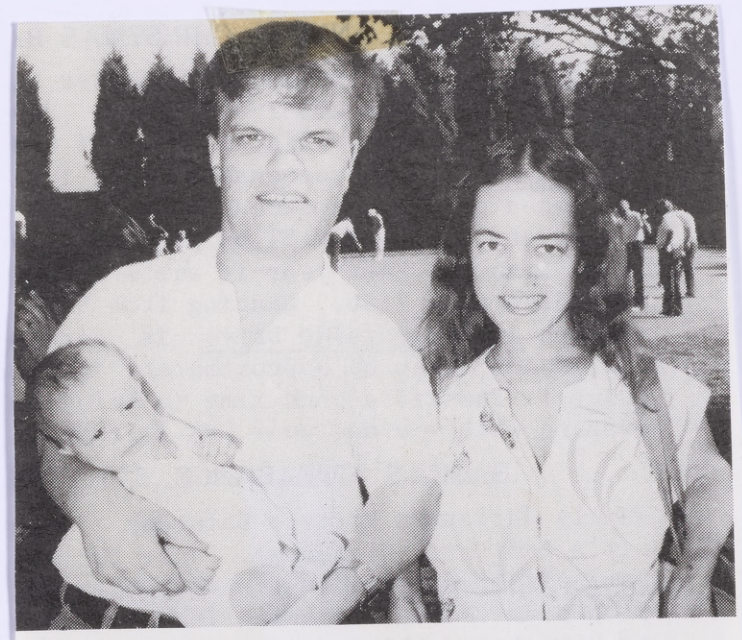
Top group photo: March Ski Trip in Lake Tahoe. Bottom group photo: New Year's Eve Ski Trip. We really had a great time, wished you could of join ed us! Top single: Scott Seidman, President, New York City Chapter, visited us. Three beauties(R to L) Susie Barnes, Janice Nehus, and Louise Yankofsky. Bottom right: George, father Angelo, and wife Sue Rossitto.

BILLY'S RIGHT-HAND ASSISTANTS AT TOURNAMENT: (Back Row L to R) Sandi Etchinison, Kathy Gieb, Pam Grizz, Pam Ybarra, Stacie Nichols, Marcia DeRousse, Tracy McCoy, Margo Apostolos, Claire Hayes; (Front) Allison Aries, Vicki Napoli, Lydia Thomas, Susie Barnes, Louise Yankofsky, Sue Rossitto, Margarita Fernandez, Mary Lou Sberna, and BILLY BARTY.

RUTHIE RICKER, BOSTON, 1983 CONVENTION QUEEN FLEW TO CALIF. FOR GOLF TOURNAMENT.

1983 LP WINNERS IN GOLF TOURNAMENT--R TO L: DARRELL MONTZINGO, SEATTLE, WITH GROSS OF 76; MIKE TREYLINEK, PITTSBURGH, PA, WITH 79, AND CHRIS RAMONO, WITH 87. GREAT GOING, GUYS....

**Pat Bilon, 35, became famous when he breathed life into the movie character, 'E.T.' Pat succumbed to pneumonia. Tributes to Pat came from many LPA members as well as Stephen Spielberg, director of 'E.T.'**



DAVID AND MIMI BECKER, AND SON, JAMES ANTHONY, AT GOLF TOURNAMENT. JAMES IS A REAL CUTIE....

**RON MORRIS, President of the Salt Lake City, Utah Chapter of LPA** an Elementary Teacher, Granite School District in Salt Lake, put the following facts together. This article could be the basis for working on something more extensive in this line--we would like to see our own LPs and Parents Group using this for their beginning.

**AROUND L.A. IN LPA:**

Hats off to another one of our members who made it! GARY FRIEDKIN, originally from Youngstown, Ohio, now residing in Woodland Hills, California, joined LPA as a teenager. He is a college graduate with majors in Music Education, Accounting, and Real Estate, obtaining real estate licenses in Ohio and California, and working in his family's thriving real estate business for 10 years. In October of 1980, he moved out to L.A. to be one of the actors in "Under the Rainbow". Other movie credits include: "Blade Runner", Heartbreaker" and "Young Doctors in Love". Currently, he is on "Happy Days" as Clarence, the Cook. Recently GARY acquired an insurance license and is associated with ZABOTINSKY AND ASSOCIATES, INC. INSURANCE AGENCY. This firm is a long-time friend of LPA, and one which has been involved in sponsoring multiple activities, such as the annual LITTLE PEOPLE INTERNATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT, etc. The firm offers a full portfolio of insurance products including life, health, disability, fire and casualty (home, auto commercial & liability, etc.). As evidence of the capabilities of this firm, so far no request for insurance has been turned down. By his association with this firm, GARY feels that he can provide an outstanding service for ALL people...and especially the little people. Please call him if you have any questions about any insurance problems. Home Phone (213) 884-2411; Work phones: (213) 991-4712 or (805) 495-4252.

**Continued: Looking for An Apartment**

hand information, call Robert Biggs (an LP) (213) 338-6288. He lives in one of these apartments and he thinks they are great!)

**AROUND L.A. IN LPA:** PAUL MILLER, one of our well-known and well admired LPA "statesmen" has been accepted at HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, Boston!! What an honor!! But girls this could mean now that he won't be making this California trip in March that we told you about in the last newsletter!! You should have been there--and many of you were-for PAUL HOLTSCLAW's big night in Ontario when he was installed as Worshipful Master of the Mount Baldy Lodge. This very special occasion did bring out a large delegation of our LPA members and friends; needless to say, both PAUL AND BROOK were beaming when they saw a crowd around 40 LPs. It was great to be there with them!! Our own Mike Gogin played the piano and Gracie Oliver sang some songs, to add to our pride. The HOLTSCLAWS have gone "beyond the call of duty" with their LPA support, and it was great to see the group respond by attending.

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JIM CADY, a Pathfinder Counselor, and member of LPA, will be participating in the So. Calif. Pathfinder Olympics, held at the Glendale High School track field on Sunday, March 13. The time will be from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. Jim will be running in the 440 relay run. PATHFINDERS are a young people's group, ages 9-14, and is similar to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, only that it is co-ed and Christ-centered.

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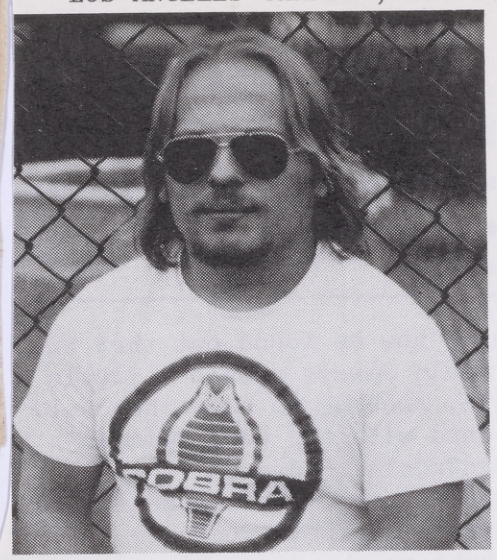
AIMEE DESHOTEL, Compton, suffered a fractured leg from a motor scooter accident February 13, and at this writing is in Harbor General Hospital. She will be in the hospital from 3-6 weeks. AIMEE, who will be 13 in July, would appreciate hearing from all her LPA friends. Her address: 15012 Clymar Ave., Compton 90220. It is possible that she will be transferred from Harbor to Kaiser Hospital, so it would be wiser to send a card to her home at this time. "BABY BOOM" in LPA. Recent word from the State of Washington tells us that Kathy and Dennis Snyder have a darling baby girl, Katie Rebecca, born 1/10/83. Darrell and Vicki (Petite) adopted a three-month old baby girl; also the Bankowski's from Idaho, adopted an 8-month old boy in October. Three cheers for the three little ones.

AP Laserphoto

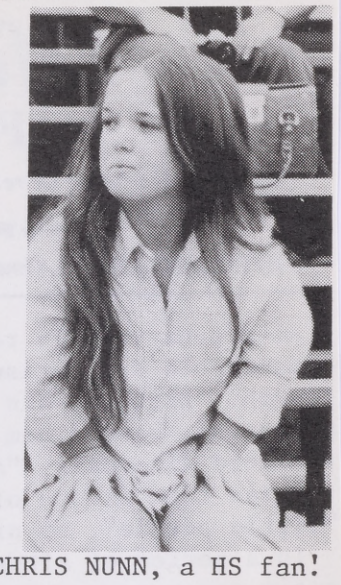
# *'Little people' line up*

It was portrait time Monday in Boston for a special group of people. They were in New England to attend the 25th annual Convention of the Little People of America Inc. The gathering, which continues all this week, annually attracts "little people" from all over the United States.

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER, LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA INC.




ARTURO GIL, DJ by profession, now a member of Hollywood Shorties.



CHRIS NUNN, a HS fan!

DAVID BECKER - Happily "purring" "My Heart Belongs to Tweety"....

COLLEEN & DON BELL

WHAT A GREAT TIME WE HAD WITH SANTA AND OUR FRIENDS!

June-July 1978

The Denver area of District Ten met June 13 and elected officers. They are president Gary Hicks, vice-president Jim Ingalls, secretary Virginia Nerden and treasurer David Solo. Shown here, left to right, are, front row: Jim Ingalls and Ernie Nerden; second row: Gary Hicks, Brian Wanberg and Victor Ingalls; third row: Patricia Hicks, Virginia Nerden and Susan Ingalls; back row: Alice Swanson, Leona Nerden and Jack Hitt.

## The Little People gather

BILLY BARTY
Group's founder

BOSTON (UPI) — The 500 members of the Little People of America Inc. say their annual week-long conventions are a chance to swap jokes about tall people and see eye-to-eye with someone other than their children.

The group, which convened Monday for its 25th yearly meeting, was founded by Hollywood star Billy Barty and aims to provide mutual support to the estimated 100,000 Americans who suffer from one of 80 types of dwarfism.

Barty said little people have an intense need to discuss mutual problems and find solutions such as finding employment.

# PARENTAL DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICAL BUILDING BLOCKS IN THE SUCCESSFUL DWARF

by RON MORRIS,

**Birth to 1-1½ years old:** Weight at birth: 6 to 10 lbs. average. Height: 14 to 20 inches average. Physical appearance: Head is very large and about 1/2 length of body trunk. Limbs are very short in length and not in proportion to body length. Intellect: Average to above average. A complete mental, physical and glandular examination should be given at this time. X-rays should be taken of the entire skeletal structure also.

**1-½ years to 2-½ years:** No crawling stage of development is common. Child stands by holding on to furniture. Average age is 15 to 23 months for starting of walking skills. Walking is in short distances of 3-10 feet, then child sits before walking again. Check hearing. Tubes may be required at this time.

**Caution Signs with the various age groups:**

**2-½ years to 5 years:** Child climbs stairs, chairs, stools and around the house. Benches and stools must be provided on his or her own. Do not do it yourself for the child. These tasks of reaching or doing these kinds of things must be done by the child. You are seriously hurting the child for all the future years to come if you do it for them. Making it easier for the child takes away the experiences required for future developments. Self confidence of "I can do it" is first developed at this critical age by this action. At this age your child will complain of his or her first growing pains. Ankles, leg muscles, and knees are very painful and really are hurting the child. Joints are too large for limbs and cause nerves to be pinched. Feet may fall asleep. The more the child walks, the more the swelling of ankles. Important step: the child must walk in spite of the pain that occurs. Child will grow out of this by 10 years of age. Don't let this be a scapegoat for getting out of daily required routines; the child's expected behavior must be enforced in spite of this!

**5 years to 6 years:** Expose child to large crowds such as stores. Pre-school is recommended. Note: This is one year later than that of the norm. Desks and chairs may cause pinched legs and thighs. Stools should be provided for your child to work at ability level without being uncomfortable.

**6 years to 7 years:** Expose child to large crowds of people. Kindergarten is recommended. Note: This is one year later than that of the norm. Dietitian should be consulted at this time. Starchy foods such as breads, spaghetti, pizza and excessive salt and sugars should be avoided. Added protein of meats, eggs and fish will increase the child's alertness in school. Your child may have difficulty in understanding directions and academic skill areas at this time. You can help by giving added drill in all academic areas at home. Encourage your child to go on because he or she will succeed at the task. Capitalize on special talents and skill areas of the child's interests and strengths. This is the start of a concentrated effort through the whole growth cycle that you bring out in the child.

**8 years to 9 years:** Height difference first noticed by child as taught by peers in a negative manner. Name calling and teasing are common ground at this age. Don't allow or accept name calling to persist in school. See the teacher or principal to stop it! Have your child's teacher talk about and discuss differences of all children. When your child is absent, the teacher should talk to the children about your child. Physical competition puts added stress on the child. Child may physically be doing twice what you think he or she can handle. Don't you be the one to deny the competition to the child! Your child must particpate in all physical competition sports that they can. They may not be the winner, but they will not lose either. By trying, they build experiences and the self-confidence of belonging. This will point out to your child that they do belong. Scouting programs, 4-H, youth programs, church programs and groups, etc., are essential at this time and should be continued until about 17 years of age. This will allow for a mature, well-adjusted social development and outlook on life.

**9 years to 12 years:** Increase experiences and events to the MAX! Continued exposure of stores, public places, church, crowds, baseball and other games in public places, etc.

**Continued:**

Continued:

PARENTAL DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICAL BUILDING BLOCKS IN THE SUCCESSFUL DWARF

Hiding a child from these kinds of things does not help the child! What it does though, is to rob the child of all the social tools to work with in later life. You are killing your child socially and mentally in years to come if you do this. This is the only time your child can acquire these skills. Don't rob your child of the chance because YOU think it is best. Believe me, you are wrong if you do.

**12 to 14 years:** Puberty takes place. Worries for the young adult start in questions about normal childbearing, marriage, and whether or not their children will be dwarfed. Differences in social development of wanting to date and belong to peer groups is most apparent. Peer rejection of joining or being voted into clubs or cliques may take place. Voice changes - 1 to 2 octaves lower. Style of clothing may bother young adult because they have to be made special. Maybe not even in the fashion of their friend's clothing. If you can sew or know someone who can may solve the problem by making stylish clothing.

**14 years to 16 years:** Muscles and joints hurt from growing pains. Peer physical competition adds to physical stress. If dating is a problem, young adult must have other outlets: Little People of America, church, family, social programs, hobbies, interest areas, youth programs, volunteer work, etc.

**16 years to 19 years:** Fears of the future can be very, very scary! Questions are asked by the young adult, such as: What occupation can I do? What if I am not a success? Will I ever be independent and on my own? Will I ever drive a car? What if no one wants to hire me? Will I ever own my own car? Will I meet someone my size to marry or will I marry a giant? Will I ever have children, or do I even want them? Will I have to live at home? Will I ever buy a house of my own? Will I go to a University? Will I go to a Trade School? What if I can't get a job? What if I have no financial means to go to school, etc., and etc.

**19 years to 23 years:** 99 percent of adults - maximum height is already attained. The biggest problem is making the decision to continue on in school, get a job, or get married. In most cases, you as the parent, must have provided financially for your child's education. Education costs are high, and they cannot go it alone. Dating starts at this time for the male and female.

**23 years to 30 years:** Adult will be established in a job or involved in higher education. 30 years of age is average for marriage of the adult dwarf female. Adult height is completed, male dwarf is about 4 feet to 4 feet 11 inches. Female dwarf is 3 feet 10 inches to 4 feet 7 inches.

**32 years and older:** This is the average age for the adult dwarf male to marry. Proportional average adult weight of the male and female is critical for a healthy life-span. Adult dwarf male should weigh about 95 to 130 pounds, maximum; adult dwarf female should weigh about 80 to 105 pounds, maximum.

**Conclusion:**...Your child is a very special gift from Heaven, given to you for very special reasons from God...you are not being punished for bad or offensive sins committed unto others or yourself, as others may tell you. Sometimes you may feel this within yourself...nor were you picked because of reasons no one can explain...in years to come the rewards of this child will be greater than all other rewards of being a parent combined...be fair, loving, and show equal love and affection....no special considerations or exceptions should be allowed in disciplining this child...your child must be part of the total family, in an equal setting of family siblings...as parents, you must insist and encourage the same expectations and goals of this child as you do from the other siblings within the family...put your child in charge of family matters as other siblings in your family...don't deny him from experiencing the task, even if a failure takes place...tell your child "you never, never fail at anything if you try your best!"

Continued:

## HEARING ATTENDED BY LP's

Four Chapter members attended the second of five "STATE OF THE COUNTY" hearings at the Los Angeles County Commission of Human Relations at the San Fernando City Hall on January 26, 1983. Billy Barty spoke on ways to educate the Public through the school system by including genetic information on Dwarfism, and historical facts about individual contributions in the curriculum. He spoke about LP's visiting schools where our small children are having problems. He also spoke about employment discrimination and what a difference it makes where the proper education has been provided.

Linda Allen was a member of the audience at this hearing. She provided invaluable "feed-back" and moral support. Stacie Nichols and Georgia Guild spoke on ways we could be aided in overcoming our limitations in the public environment. Georgia suggested one lowered counter in offices like utility companies and banks, "so we could actually see what we are signing!"

Stacie spoke about reaching problems with Verseteller machines & elevator buttons, especially the emergency phones and the door holding buttons. Most of us have experienced being alone on an elevator and being forced into an unwanted ride until someone else gets on.

But Stacie really made a humorous point when she described our plight in public rest rooms. "Even if we can climb up on the sink to wash our hands, the towels are often way out of reach. Then we have to leave shaking our dripping hands. Tacky, Tacky, Tacky!"

After all of the commissioners stopped laughing with us, the chairman, James M. Riewer, commented, "What you ask for is not unreasonable. To adapt public facilities to your suggestions would not take any major architectual changes, just a few considerate ones."

## THE CURIOUS SAVAGE by JOHN PATRICK

The Performing Arts Theatre of the Handicapped ("PATH") had its dress rehearsal at the Pilot Theatre in Hollywood on Valentines Evening (Feb. 14th). Peter Risch was not only prominent in the cast as a Savage family member, but he was also Assistant Director. Kathi Hall did a true and consistent character role as Mrs. Paddy. Linda Allen was in charge of "Hand Props," as well as having a hand in painting scenery and costume changes. Linda should also be given credit for the superb bandage on Peter's head in the second act. Did you ever hear about a character learning a deep and abiding lesson in life by having a "brick wall" fall on his head??? But I promise not to give away the plot, just in case you will be seeing this very interesting play later on.

## Looking for An Apartment

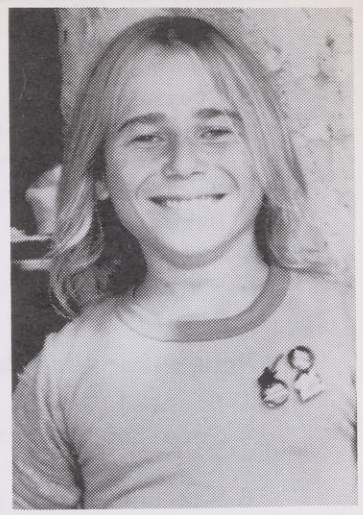
ROBERT BIGGS -- There is a company called G&K Management that owns buildings all over the L.A. area. As early as March of 1983 through 1984, G&K is building 15 new complexes. There are laws stating a percentage of the apartments must be built for the handicapped, which would mean that each complex would have 3 or more apartments built with light switches lowered; electric outlets up higher (2 1/2 feet); closets with built-in lower rods; wider doors (for wheelchairs); and no counters under sinks in kitchen & bathroom (for wheelchairs). These apartments are funded by HUD; if you are low income and disabled, you can possibly get one. There are 22 apartments that are coming available in the following areas;Chino, March; Covina, March; Canoga Park, April; Ocean Park, April; Irvine, March; Monterey Park, March; Culver City, March; & La Puente, March -- and many more. If you are interested, please call and ask for information; request also to be put on mailing list: G&K Management (213) 204-2050. (If you have further questions, and would like some personal, first-

Continued:

Adriana Bohorquez, 18 in Nov., plans college career...

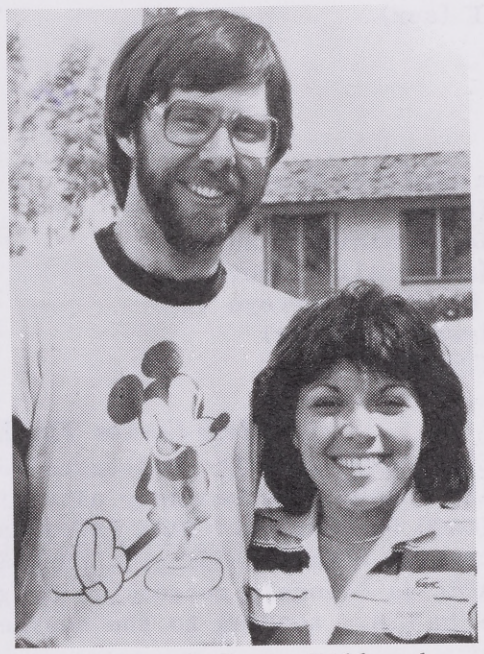
Theresa Young, 8, is a SMURF fan...

The Artrans 5..... Evan, Marilyn, Daniel, Clinton & sister Michelle...



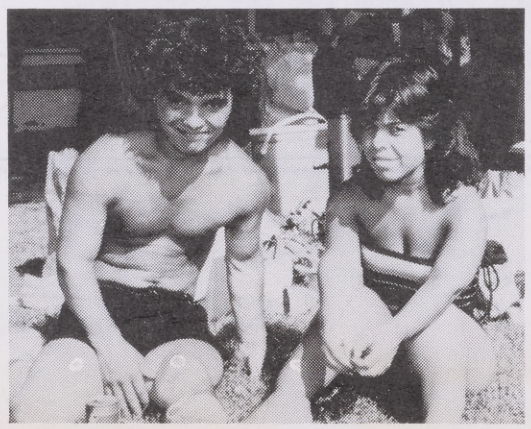
Vince Williams, one of our Teens. Great seeing him!

Serf and Susan Rocha with son, Michael.



Denise & Chris Killpack

Elaina from New Jersey...



Gino Ponza, SF Bay Area; Jeannette, New York...

Donna Hughes from SF Bay..

John Ramirez, 14 years employed Hall of Administration, downtown LA, attended beach party!

### *August Birthdays*

2 Stevie Powers, Paul Castle, Joel Avrin
3 Stephen Powers, Darcy Painter
4 Christine Dow (aux)
7 Patricia Ibarra
8 Marianne Becker (aux); Art Spuhler (Aux)
10 Debbie Dixon
14 Anita Aguilar, Yvonne Gonzales (Aux)
16 Shelly Etchinison (Aux)
19 Beverly Harris, Christy McGinty
21 Charlotte McCoy (aux)
22 Dan Ruzcika, Jr. (aux)
23 Evan Artran
24 Ruth Spiering
25 Michelle Hamilton (aux)
26 Damian Vera
28 Donald Berry, Otto Bohmann
29 Tamara Ledoux (aux)

### *September Birthdays*

1 Michael Silla, Marie Kontos (aux)
4 Jonathon Simanton; John Leatherwood
7 Kim Hosterman
8 Marguerita Smith (aux)
9 Marc Sheldon (Sup.)
10 Danielle Harmon
11 Cindy Sorenson, Karen Loy
12 Billy Stewart, Mayer Asramian
13 Lisa Hayes
14 Connie Eisenbaum
15 Frank Poppie III (aux)
16 Judy Ruzcika
18 Mel Rossi
20 Jerry Cockrell
21 Michael Gilden
23 Louis Calzada
24 Ted Becker, Sandra Hauersley, Curtis Ingalls (all aux)
25 Robert Bell, Erick Miller (aux); Venna Browning; Kenneth Hauersley (aux)
28 Billie Welch, Tommy Madden
29 Tanya Bell

### *October Birthdays*

3 Cindy Mitchell
4 Sadie Delfino
5 Mark Grimm, John Ramirez, Floyd Dixon
6 Clinton Artran (aux)
7 Dan Heble, Stacie Etchinison (aux)
8 Sharon McGinty (aux); Alice Bourassa
9 LaVerne Willis, Mary Bell Arroyo
10 Pete Risch, Melissa Cane (aux)
13 Paul Holtsclaw (Sup.)
15 Margaret Dye, Pat Harold, Teresita Vera (all aux)
16 Ken Phoenix, Theresa Gonzales (both aux)
20 Erica Hauersley (aux)
25 Billy Barty (founder LPA!)
26 Michelle Stone
29 Lea Longley (aux)
30 Brandon Acuna (aux)
31 Elizabeth Marie Cook (aux)

### *Here Comes The Brides!*

STACIE NICHOLS & ALICIA CRUM were the hostesses for a bridal shower for LINDA ALLAN on Sunday, September 11. LINDA received many nice gifts. PETER RISCH & LINDA are getting married in CHICAGO October 8...FRANK LAW & CAROL PIERCE have announced their engagement and are planning a fall wedding...JOE GIEB & KATHY PENNISI were married at the FOREST LAWN CHAPEL in Glendale recently. Congratulations to a great couple! CUPID is really busy here in L.A., tending to the business he is supposed to be about!!

### *Future Events:*

Parent's Meeting - Saturday - November 5 - with scheduled workshop for the children. More on this October newsletter.
CHRISTMAS BANQUET, Saturday, December 3, in Burbank...the biggest and best one ever!!

"I Feel Like Dancing! Dancing! - Dance the Night Away!" Dust off your dancing shoes and get ready! Look for more details in future newsletter.

**HARPER, SECOR & YBARRA, INC.**
**Los Angeles Chapter, Little People of America**
**1737 So. Butler, Apt. 3**
**W. Los Angeles, CA 90025**

The Neno Carlinos
5828 Santa Cruz Ave.
Richmond, CA 94804

**FIRST CLASS**

# All Right, Shirley!

hirley Harper, present Board
ember, Los Angeles Chapter

SHIRLEY HARPER, one of L.A. Chapter's hardest behind-the-scene workers received an outstanding performance award by the Veterans Administration where she has worked for the past 12 years in the Centralized Transcription Unit. The award was presented to her by the Director, H. H. VILLALOVOS, and her Assistant Chief, John Gibson. The award reads: "Shirley Harper's Significant Contribution to the Mission of the Agency by Substantially Exceeding Performance Requirements." Any of us who know SHIRLEY know she is certainly deserving of this award. The Los Angeles Chapter is fortunate to have a member such as SHIRLEY who is always ready to help others, whether they be a long-time friend or a new acquaintance. Unlike some, she never goes on and on about her contribution, but just does what comes naturally--she gives silently. So congratulations, SHIRLEY--we're proud of you.

## LPA Scholarship Program

..by Charles Secor

Did you know that LPA is taking applications for their scholarship program!! Do you need financial help for college? This is what you need to do immediately!

You must see what your expenses and resources are for the school year 1983-84. Your expenses would be tuition, books, lab fees, room and board, etc. Your resources could include school scholarships, vocational rehab or any corporation grants, and support by your parents. If you find you are still in need, you should contact our District Director (Betty Stewart, 16908 Judy Way, Cerritos, CA 90701; phone 213, 926-5277). She in turn will submit your application to Ron Roskamp, Treasurer, LPA, Inc., for review. Have several copies made as National will need them.

You should prepare a brief resume on yourself. It should include your high school grades, present progress in college (if any), future goals for youself, anything special about yourself, and your financial needs. Also have 3 references--two from past professors/teachers, and the other from an LPA member who has some kind of credibility within the LPA organization (it is not necessary that you have someone from the organization; it's just another point in your favor). It helps also to be a current paid member of LPA.

LPA does not have an application form per se, so it is important that you do this and be clear and brief in all points. You should note that it is getting late, because most scholarships will be given out in July at the National Convention in Boston. LPA Foundation gives out between 5-10 scholarships each year and would like to give more to those who are truly needy.

Too, if you would like to give to the LPA Scholarship Program, you can make out your check to Little People of America Foundation Scholarship Fund, and mail to Ron Roskamp, Treasurer, LPA, Inc., 4244 Greenvalle S.W., Wyoming, MI 49509.

Laura Thompson
of Quartz Hill, CA.

Hi Debbie Dickson!

Sousan Zaribaf one
of our new members

## TV/TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY

*A scene from 'Little People'*

# Dwarf Pride And Hurray for It

JOHN HAS A problem. Everyone wants to pick him up.

You may be tempted to do so yourself when you see him tonight on a lovely little program titled "Little People." If you're looking for some temporary relief from the Olympic Games, try it and meet a group of very interesting human beings. There will be times when you will want to cheer (10 p.m., Channel 9, with a reshowing Saturday at 9:30 p.m. on Channel 32).

They used to be organized under the banner of an organization called Midgets of America in a day when "dwarf" was a word no one wanted to use. Their new name is Little People of America and the change of name as well as attitude is a story that is told with both good humor and sensitivity by filmmakers Jan Krawits and Thomas Ott for PBS.

AS THE PROGRAM shows, "little people" can be born to conventional parents and can also, in turn, produce conventional children. But fortunately this program is not focused on the medical end of the subject, so stick with it and I believe you will be rewarded with some observations that can enrich us all.

The program opens on a riverboat excursion of the Little People of America with dance bands, picnics and laughter. Most of the hour is made up of interviews with some remarkably attractive people who tell us about the lighter, more affectionate aspects of their lives — their surprise when they discovered they were different from the other kids, their efforts to succeed in a world of larger people, and their delight in finding there are others like them.

"When I met the others for the first time, I was overwhelmed to find how nice it is to have eye-to-eye contact with people," says one chap.

There is a talented comedian-philosopher on this program. The producers fail to identify him — and shame on them, because he's the star of "Little People." For the purposes of this review I will call him John. He has some wonderful moments describing the problems of living in a world designed for bigger people:

"One day I looked at the bathroom in our house and said to myself, 'God, we can't use it!' After washing my hands, I reach up for a towel and the water runs down my arms. So we solved it by raising the floor two feet. Now, when the big people say something is wrong with me because I can't use their bathrooms, I tell them to come to MY house and use MY bathroom and they'll discover that something is wrong with THEM!"

John has devised something he calls Dwarf Pride. "People may say that it's foolish to be proud of being a dwarf but it's more foolish to be ashamed of it."

He enjoys his interaction with other minorities — especially blacks. "They say that for 200 years their people were sold as slaves. S - - -! For 5000 years my people were given away as gifts!"

THROUGHOUT literature dwarfs have been pictured as either super-evil as some kind of monsters or super-good as in "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." John sees all this as part of their heritage and believes they should be proud of it. He carries his philosophy of Dwarf Pride one step further than the black counterpart when he adds:

**"If you feel pride in yourself and you feel pride in your people, it's almost impossible not to make the next step, which is to feel pride in ALL people."**

There is a lot of good common sense in this neat little program every viewer of every minority can relate to.

**"If we're the ugly people, society needs us because without the ugly people there can be no Beautiful People. Even if that's the way society chooses to see us, we're still needed as part of the whole. So let's give each one of us the opportunity to play a significant role in that society."**

Although the producers seem to come from elsewhere, the final credits include this note:

*For further information contact Little People of America, P.O. Box 633, San Bruno, Calif., 94066.*

Local new's sources have spotted CUPID flying over (of all places) Sylmar, California! CUPID'S (that irresistable critter) latest victims are LINDA ALLEN & PETER RISCH. Severe "symptoms" are quite apparent to all. Following CUPID'S advice, they will be married in CHICAGO on October 8. STACIE NICHOLS, our illustrious President, is a member of the wedding party. Congratulations and much happiness to the engaged couple.

# LosAngeles

*LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA, INC.*

"Dedicated to Individuals of Short Stature"

January 1984


## Pre-Election Meeting—Pot Luck, Sat., Jan. 21—Yturraldes

We all need to ZERO IN on the pre-election meeting/potluck which will take place at MARTIN & BARBARA YTURRALDE's, 4281 Garnet Ave., Cypress (714) 827-2247, on January 21, 2:00 p.m. It is important that you as a member be there to take part in the selection of candidates for the 1984-1985 year for the Los Angeles Chapter. It will give you a chance to nominate someone who you feel would serve our chapter well for the next 2-yr. term. Candidates running thus far (picked by the Nominating Committee) are: SANDY ETCHINISON, president; SUSIE BARNES, vice president; PENNY FRISHMAN and MARILYN HOYT, Treasurer, and SHIRLEY HARPER, secretary. These candidates, and any others nominated, will share their campaign speeches in the Feb. newsletter. A POTLUCK will follow this meeting; club will be furnishing eating utensils, plates and drinks. Desserts will be furnished by the Board; Casseroles and salads by all others (you!). REMEMBER, you need to be a PAID MEMBER to vote! Send your dues in NOW to BETTY STEWART. (See DUES ARE DUE article this newsletter.)

### *VOTING ON PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENT AT JAN. 21 MEETING - YTURRALDE'S*

In November 1983 at the Artrans, we had a business meeting along with the potluck dinner. We discovered at a later date that we were technically wrong in not letting the membership know of the proposed amendment to the LAC bylaws that we discussed and voted upon. We are now announcing that we will be voting again on the following change in our chapter bylaws at the January 21 meeting at the YTURRALDE's. The proposed change is as follows:

> "At the regular meeting held the September (change to: DECEMBER) preceding elections, a Nominating Committee of five members shall be elected by the L.A.C. membership. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate candidates, after careful consideration of their qualifications, for the offices to be filled at the regular meeting in January (change to: MARCH). The Nominating Committee shall report at the regular meeting in October (change to: JANUARY) their nominees; at that time additional nominations from the floor shall be permitted."

Another proposed change is that paid members not able to attend the election meeting will be able to vote by absentee ballots. If this amendment is passed, it will read as follows: "Absentee ballots will be tallied the night of the elections along with those cast by the members in attendance at the meeting."

## Snow Trip—Big Bear Lake— Feb. 17-20, 1984

O.K. friends--the snow season is upon us and it is time for our fabulous snow trip! For only $40 you will encounter 4 days and 3 nights of fun and frolic with friends in the beautiful BIG BEAR LAKE area. Included in this fee, you will receive 3 hardy home-cooked, eat-at-your own risk breakfasts. So make your reservations NOW by calling CHUCK SECOR (213) 747-2158. There are beds and 2 huge lofts available for sleeping so don't forget your satin sheets and/or sleeping bag. Bring your bathing suit, and a bottle of wine to relax with in the hot-tub. This weekend is open to all (short & tall, big and little, thick and thin) individuals. BIG BEAR has many fine restaurants with 3 different ski areas--SNOW SUMMIT, SNOW FOREST AND GOLDMINE. Besides that, you'll be close to nature and fresh air! As you know we will be car pooling so contact CHUCK if you need a ride, or if you can give someone a ride. Address of the house in BIG BEAR is 41579 COMSTOCK LANE. Off of BIG BEAR BLVD (which goes through BIG BEAR), turn right on THRUSH DRIVE, turn right on COMSTOCK LANE. House is on left side about half-way down block. Should you be confused, call (714) 866-7415, BLUE SKIES RESERVATION SERVICE (Century 21), Big Bear Boulevard, just east of Summit Blvd., and they will assist you in getting to your destination.

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS TAKEN FROM THE LITTLE PEOPLE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSN. NEWSLETTER OF OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1983. IT WAS WRITTEN BY DR. JUDITH HALL, PROF. MEDICAL GENETICS, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA LPBCA, INC. MEDICAL RESOURCE. THE FOLLOWING ALSO IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF ARTICLES ABOUT DIFFERENT KINDS OF CHONDROYSTROPHIES.

# The Achondroplasia Dwarf

*By Dr. Judith G. Hall*

Over the last ten years, enormous progress has been made in the medical understanding of chondrodystrophy by distinguishing different, specific conditions. Until ten years ago, almost all kinds of disproportionate short stature were called 'achondroplasia', but we have larned that there are over a hundred different specific types.

It is very important to establish the specific type which an individual has, so that we can talk about which complications occur in that type and which problems one does not have to worry about at all.

In addition, it is important to establish a specific diagnosis to know the genetic features of the specific type of disproportionate short stature. Most kinds of disproportionate short stature (dwarfism chondrodystrophies) do have a genetic basis even though they have not occurred previously in a family. In order to understand exactly what can be expected for other family members and the person themselves, a specific diagnosis is necessary.

Finally, as treatment becomes available for some types of disproprotionate short stature, it is important to know what type an individual has as it might be receptive to therapy.

A specific diagnosis is established from the history of when short stature was first recognized, what type of disproprotiona there is (i.e. whether it's mainly involving the arms and legs, or mainly involving the trunk), which bones are involved (i.e. whether it is the skull, hands, backbone that are involved), what changes can be seen on x-ray or whether there is anything abnormal when a biopsy of bone is taken.

Some types of chondrodystrophies are so common that only a clinical examination is necessary to make the diagnosis. Others are more complex, and it may take many years to arrive at a specific diagnosis.

It is important that one go to physicians who are experienced with chondrodystrophy when arriving at a diagnosis. A list of such physicians is available through Little People of Canada and Little People of America.

In this article, I will describe some of the common features of ACHONDROPLASIA and in a subsequent one I will discuss some other chondrodystrophies which are quite common, since it is worthwhile for people with chondrodystrophies to know about some other types as well.

ACHONDROPLASIA is the most common type of disproportionate short stature. It is characterized by an average-length trunk, short arms and legs with more shortening in the proximal part (rhizomelia) than in the distal part. Thus the upper arms and upper legs are disproportionately even shorter. There is involvement of the bases of the skull such that there is some depression of the bridge of the nose, some underdevelopment of the mid-face and prominence of the forehead and jaw.

ACHONDROPLASIA is what is called an autosomal dominate condition. This means that if you have it there is a 50/50 chance that you will pass it on to your children. However, most of the time the parents of somebody with ACHONDROPLASIA are of average stature. This is because of what we call a new mutation or a change in genetic information. In that situation there is no increased chance to average-sized individuals in the family to have a child with ACHONDROPLASIA, but there is a 50/50 chance that the person themselves will have a child with ACHONDROPLASIA.

In terms of medical complications that are seen in ACHONDROPLASIA, by far the most significant ones are related to the spinal canal, the space for the spinal cord being small. Thus the nerves of the spinal cord can be pinched. Complications of this situation include numbness and tingling of the arms and legs, weakness and loss of control both of movement in arms and legs and bladder and bowel. These symptoms can come on slowly or suddenly, but always are a reflection that the nerves are being pinched.

Since the nerves can be permanently damaged, it is terribly important that this situation be dealt with by someone with experience to avoid permanent damage to nerves. For some individuals this means exercises and/or bracing, for others surgery to decompress the trapped nerves. About 30% of people with ACHONDROPLASIA have some symptoms related to pinched nerves and about 10% will require some surgical treatment.

Other complications of ACHONDROPLASIA include frequent ear infections as a baby, delay in being able to sit and walk as a child (which is no reflection of intellectual development), difficulty with having distinctive speech as a child, bowing of legs, obesity, early menopause and uterine fibroids in women, necessity for cesarean section for delivery of a pregnancy.

There are two additional problems in early childhood which need consideration. These are the question of hydrocephalus or increased head size. Children with ACHONDROPLASIA do have larger heads than average-sized children, but the real concern is that there may be a blockage within the brain which needs to have a shunt. Today this problem is easily solved by the use of ultrasound studies to measure how big the ventricles within the head are growing. Less than 5% of people with ACHONDROPLASIA actually need to have surgery. This can easily be determined by the first 1½ years of life.

The second problem seen in babies with ACHONDROPLASIA, is an abnormal curvature in the mid-back from being allowed to sit too early. This can often be avoided by having babies with ACHONDROPLASIA lie in an infant seat until they develop sufficient strength in their back to support themselves. If, however, the curvature increases during childhood it may require surgery, again to avoid pinched nerves in the back.

I hope this information is helpful so you can have some sense of the unique problems in ACHONDROPLASIA. Other than these problems, most people with ACHONDROPLASIA are quite healthy and live normal, productive lives. However, they are faced with the chronic social adjustments of all people with short stature.

The basic defect in ACHONDROPLASIA is not know, however, there is active research at this time trying to determine the basic problem. There is not specific cure for increasing growth although many growth hormones and medications have been tried.

(THANK YOU, DR. JUDY FOR THIS ARTICLE. IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS, FEEL FREE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH DR. HALL - c/o LITTLE PEOPLE OF B.C., P.O. BOX 453, ABBOTSFORD,BC V2S-5Z5.)

## *THE PICARDS, UTICA, NEW YORK, TELLING THEIR STORY ABOUT RAISING THEIR DAUGHTER, WENDY*

WENDY was born on May 16, 1973, and it took us a day to get over the shock she was not going to be a dwarf. As WENDY's pediatrician wheeled her out to see her father in the waiting room shortly after her birth, Al noticed her very long fingers and she didn't have any of the characteristics of being an achondroplasia.

One of the first thoughts that went through my mind was if we would be able to handle her when she got bigger. She weighed 6 lbs and 13½ ounces and was 19 inches long. In our car we had a carseat for her and when she was older, she would travel all over in her stroller with me. She has always been a very light child to lift which helped us a great deal. When she was old enough to walk, we were very strict with her. We knew she would someday, in the very near future, be able to run faster than Al and myself. We discussed this situation and realized she could get the upper hand so we started to discipline her as soon as she could understand.

The PICARDS with friend who has an antique doll collection....

At 2 years old, WENDY attended Sunday School. In reality, it wouldn't be long before some of the children would recognize that we were very small. We approached her teacher about the kids' remarks about our size and told her to please not hush their comments but vocally agree with them. WENDY would hear criticism about us during her entire life and we thought she might as well not be protected from our physical appearance.

WENDY attended nursery school when she was 3 years old. I read "Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs" to her class and explained to the children about being little people.

The spring before WENDY started kindergarten, I called the Principal about our family background. He passed the information on to the teachers and it certainly helped her the first day of school. During WENDY's first few years in school, we made ourselves very visible to the children. In her second grade, I corrected papers for her teacher during school.

AL and I have spoken to many organizations in the area about "Life as a Dwarf". We have tried to expose ourselves as much as possible so people would become familiar to us. We have strived to make our home very comfortable for her and us. We know she will want to learn how to cook so we do not have our stove recessed into the kitchen floor. The mirrors are at different levels throughout our home. When WENDY and I go shopping together, she is very helpful in reaching many items for me.

Last spring she was the one who wanted to attend the LPA Convention in Boston! We were delighted because it is very important she understand our two worlds. We know problems will arise in WENDY's future regarding us and with God's help we will handle each incident as it occurs.

.....AL AND JANET PICARD, UTICA,NY.

George and Tena Baehm owe a great deal to LPA but have paid back so much more. 'The balance sheet will always be tipped in LPA's favor,' George says.

MICHAEL & DARLA GOGIN...SON MATTHEW IS FINDING PAPA'S GLASSES VERY FASCINATING

The newlyweds--Georgia and Bob Rood

**TALL ORDER:** Willie can't get past the door at many bars, let alone buy a drink.

# LITTLE BIG MAN

## *He Looks 9 Years Old — But He's Really 27*

Little Willie Canady doesn't have to worry about what he'll be when he grows up — because he never will. He's 27 but looks like he's only 8 or 9 years old!

The pint-size Texan stands only 4 feet 4 and weighs a featherlight 65 pounds — because of a pituitary gland problem that was discovered when he was 12.

Willie can't even get past the door at most bars, let alone buy a drink. And when he drives his car, he knows there's a good chance he'll be pulled over by a cop.

"I look like Gary Coleman's kid brother," says Willie, a computer operator in San Antonio. "When I'm driving, I get stopped all the time."

Willie has to pull the driver's seat all the way forward to reach the pedals of his 1979 Pontiac Firebird. To see out of the windshield, he has to sit on a pillow.

"I got stopped just a couple of days ago by a patrolman, and the first thing he asked was, 'Where's your mom and dad?' " Willie said.

"I said, 'Officer, I'm not as young as I look. I'm 27.' And he said, 'Sure you are, son. You just took your parents' car and drove off.'

"Then I showed him a copy of my birth certificate, which I always carry, and my employee ID card. He kept looking at them and shaking his head.

"When he handed me back my ID, he said, 'Be careful.' He still had this look of disbelief on his face."

Willie recalled that when he went out to dinner recently with a 5-foot-7 girlfriend, he ordered drinks — and the waitress just grinned and brought him water.

"Later, when we ordered dinner, I asked for a steak, potato and — and they brought [illegible] plate!"

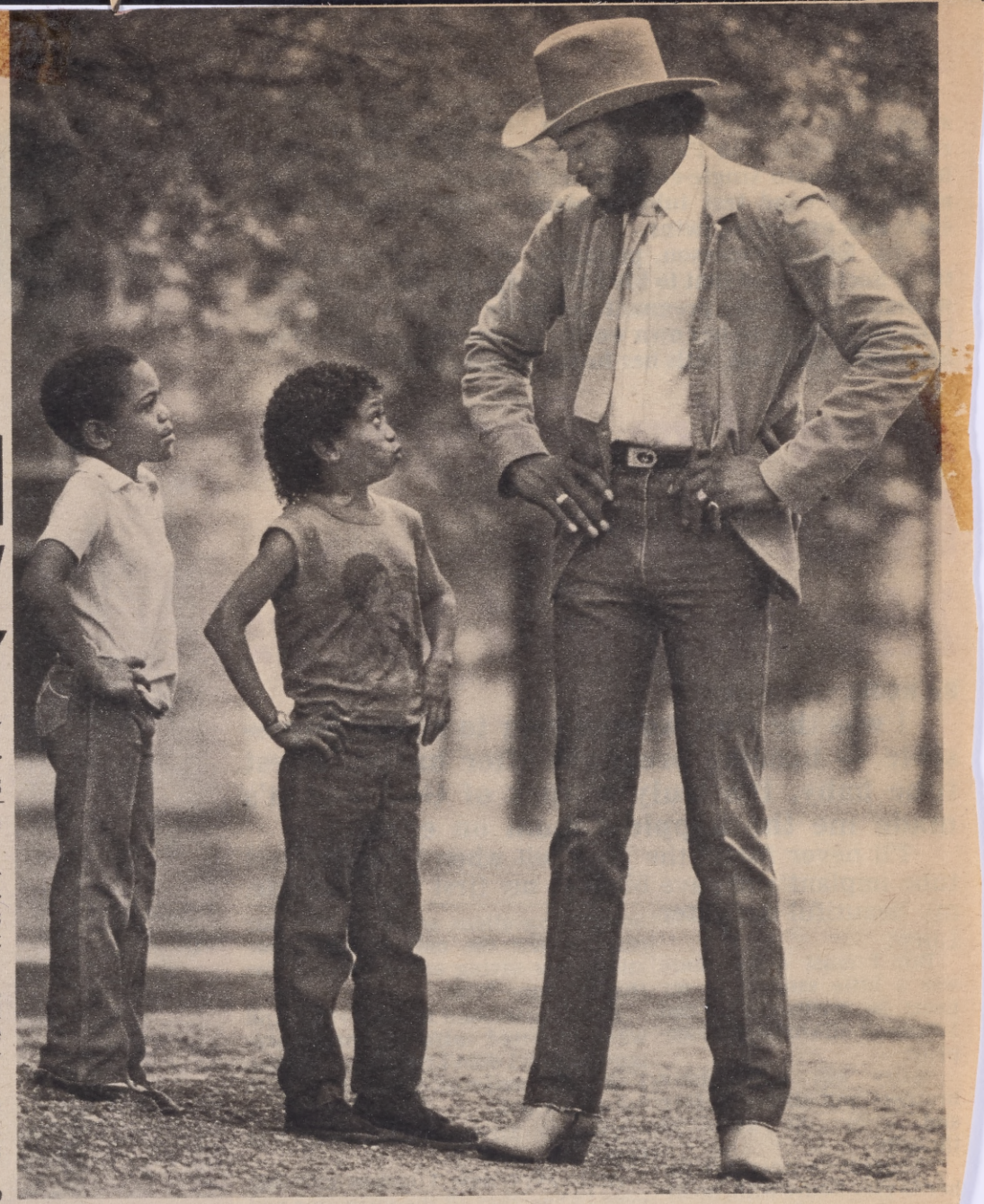
But b[illegible] and looking like a little boy does have its advantages, Willie added.

When he goes to the movies, he usually pays children's prices. He also shops in the children's department at clothing stores.

Willie lives with his mom, two brothers and a sister, all of whom are average size. He hopes eventually to marry and have children.

"It doesn't matter if the woman is my size or normal size," he added, "as long as she loves me for what I am."

*— DENNIS D'ANTONIO*



**PINT-SIZED** Willie looks up to a normal 27-year-old. Behind him is a normal-size 9-year-old boy.

**GIRLFRIEND** Carlene Brown gets a kiss from Willie but he needs a boost to do it!

PATTI BELL AND HER NEWLY ADOPTED DAUGHTER, ROBYN.

# Dwarfs don't feel short-changed in life

By HARRY STOFFER
United Press International

At 4 feet 3 inches, Harry McDonald — a full moustache and receding hairline befitting his 38 years — is taller than the average short person whose stature results from any one of many identified medical conditions.

He is a dwarf. Not a midget.

Absolutely not a midget.

"'Midget' is the one that will get our hair to stand on end. 'Midget' has the connotation of the sideshow, the circus," said McDonald, an engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers in Philadelphia for the past 18 years and the top official in a three-state region of the Little People of America.

LPA, with a national membership of about 3,000, is a social, mutual-support and advocacy organization for dwarfs and their family members of average height. It was founded 27 years ago by actor Billy Barty.

Dwarfs, as defined by LPA, include an estimated 80,000 to 100,000 Americans who for some medical reason reach a height of no more than 4 feet 10 inches when fully grown. Their average is 3 feet 8 inches.

Some have a hormonal problem that can be treated and ultimately may be eliminated via development of a synthetic hormone. Most have genetic mutations that cannot be corrected and, once they appear, may be passed on to children.

Dwarfs recognize the difficulties in being taken seriously or treated as equals when their world view is at belt-buckle level, McDonald said, and they enjoy good-natured humor about themselves and see progress in society's acceptance and treatment of them.

"Society has given us a fair break," he said.

While some pay telephones, elevator controls and water fountains have been lowered, certain things will have to remain out of reach or else they would become obstacles for people of average height, said McDonald, who with his wife of average height has a 10-year-old dwarf son.

"I don't want to make my disability someone else's," he said. McDonald said that "we would have a lot of tall people with bad backs" if everything were made convenient for dwarfs.

"On equal rights, I feel we've been extremely well treated .... Back in the '30s, I would have lobbied every day," said the director of LPA region that includes Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.

Craig McCulloh, 25, of Harrisburg, Pa., president of a local chapter of LPA, takes a more militant position.

McCulloh, administrative assistant to a Pennsylvania legislator, said he has begun research into the need for a law to prohibit discrimination because of height, possibly adding it to a statute that already forbids bias because of race, age or sex.

"I feel definitely, there is widespread discrimination ... I have to work harder to achieve the same results and the same recognition as an average-size person would," McCulloh said.

Although he accepts McDonald's position that store shelves and shopping carts, for example, should not be made inconvenient for people of average height, the legislative aide said more thought could be given to design of public places and facilities to improve the way they accommodate people of all sizes.

He believes the progress in making public accommodations accessible to little people was coincidental. Water fountains and elevator controls have been lowered for people in wheelchairs, not for dwarfs, McCulloh said.

McDonald said he personally hasn't seen much discrimination except in the insurance field and that is being dealt with.

But sometimes society has to say "no" to little people, McDonald said.

Dwarfs recognize the difficulties in being taken seriously or treated as equals when their world view is at belt-buckle level

"If I am denied a mounted policeman's job, I would not consider it discrimination," he said.

Movies and television recently have done both well and poorly for the public image of little people, the LPA officers said.

"The Fall Guy" and "Trapper John, M.D.," both TV series, had episodes that treated dwarfs like average people and focused attention on the problems they and their families face, McCulloh said.

The movie "Under the Rainbow" provided little people with some well-paying jobs and had funny scenes but on the whole left viewers with the impression dwarfs are drunken hotel-wreckers, McCulloh and McDonald said.

"We want to come out of the closet, so to speak."

Those who made their way to the mountains for the snow trip were: Front row (L to R): Stacie Etchinison, Patty Simpson, Louise Yankofsky, Annie Danberg, Chuck Secor, Paul & Brook Holtsclaw; 2nd row: Sandi Etchinison, Shirley Harper, Kathy Erb, Scott Danberg, Joe Griffo, Jim Cady, Kevin Holtsclaw; 3rd, Pam Kendall, Lori (Barty) Woodland, Shelly O'Neil & Claire Hayes.

# Here Comes the Bride!

# Just 3-Foot-11, She Weds Her Honey Who's 6-Foot-7

**Looking like mismatched figures on a wedding cake, 3-foot-11 Bev Russell and her 6-foot-7 beau Nigel Wilks got married — and now the happy newlyweds are excitedly planning to start a family.**

"It's the happiest day of my life!" gushed Bev, beaming up at her beanpole hubby after saying "I do" at the Hull, England, city hall. "I just couldn't stop the tears when the registrar pronounced us man and wife. My heart may be small — but it's full of happiness!"

In our issue published June 12, The ENQUIRER told the couple's heartwarming story — how they met at a party last year and braved the cruel insults of strangers to pursue their romance.

The wedding was supposed to be in August — but the pair just couldn't wait until then. So they tied the knot before 20 friends and relatives on June 30. Nigel wore a formal gray suit and a towering top hat that added a foot to his height — while Bev was in a cream-colored ankle-length bridal gown and low-heeled sandals.

Bev giggled as Nigel reached into the depths of his pocket and fished out a gold wedding ring. Then he bent nearly double to place it on her finger and kiss her.

## His Parents Refused To Attend the Wedding

After the five-minute ceremony the pair frolicked in a nearby park — with 98-pound Bev riding on Nigel's back.

Then it was off to a neighborhood pub for more celebrating with the guests.

As the friends watched with glee, Bev tried to wear Nigel's top hat — and her head disappeared into it.

Finally, the couple went off to spend their honeymoon at their home — a cottage on the estate where Bev works as a caretaker.

"It's all we can afford, but who cares?" Bev said. "We will be happy just being together.

"We'll start a family as soon as possible — our babies should be normal."

The only cloud over the occasion was that Nigel's parents, who were strongly opposed to the romance, flatly refused to attend the wedding.

But Bev declared, "Absolutely nothing could have spoiled my day.

"My ears are closed to insults and abuse. My life is full of God-given joy. I'm so happy.

"I feel like Princess Diana must have on her wedding day.

"I had imagined myself a bride a million times, but in my heart I never thought it would happen.

"Now my heart is bursting at the seams!"

— *PAUL F. LEVY*

**OH HAPPY DAY!** Nigel and Bev take a walk in the park after their wedding.

Attending District Nine's spring regional in Burnsville, Minn., April 28-30, were, left to right, front row: Dan Cota, Marilyn Zellmann, Beth Anderson and Doris Cannan; second row: Alan Gudridge, Joyce Engstrom and Mamie King; Third row: Kathy D'Avia, Debbie D'Avia, Patty Wieser, Clif King and Bill Gudridge; far back: Jan Gudridge. Bunny and Vern Geis, Chuck and Sally Bedow, and Franny and Willy Sauser are not pictured.

Just before the cold winds of winter blasted through the midwest, District-6 held their Fall Regional in Madison, Wisc. There were 50 delegates in attendance including Drs. Len Langer, Richard Pauli, Renata Laxova, and Natalie Krassifhoff of the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Genetic Clinic. District-6 is finalizing plans now for its Spring Regional to be held in either March or April of 1983 in Southern Illinois.

The recent District-2 meeting held in late March at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, New York, attracted 45 members. This meeting was hosted by Dr. Lynne Leavy of the hospital. Some of the members who attended are from left to right front row: No name available, Helen Tossettini, Susan Kadish, Laurie Soto, Stephanie Rigert, Danny Heyman, Jason Heyman and Sherry Hewman. Second row members are: Stanley Wermes, Dr. Lynne Leavy, Mrs. Sciacca, Louise Sciacca, Beth Wason, George Baehm III, Eleanor Esposito, Tina Baehm, Bill Roberts, Richie Heyman, Connie and Matthew Rigert, Claude Rabinowitz, Anne Marie Carcione, Bob Rigert, District Director Sidney Kadish, Florence Kadish and Betty Elder of Johns Hopkins Hospital. Back row members are: Mr. and Mrs. R. Michaels and Daniel, Mr. and Mrs. J. Tsou and Erik, Esther Williams (mother of Betty Elder) and Cy Agoss.

Indianola policeman returns from Boston

# He attended 'Little People' convention

BY JOE WILSON

The motto was "Think Big Today" as more than 400 members of the Little People of America gathered for their 25th annual convention in Boston recently.

Indianola's Charlie Pickens is a member of the LPA and took his vacation time from the Indianola Police Department to attend the week-long convention.

Pickens, 35, stands 4' 7" and is just under the 4' 10" necessary to become a member of LPA. He joined the national organization two years ago and attended last year's convention in Reno, Nevada.

"The main goal of the organization is to help dwarfs understand and cope with the problems of being short," Pickens said.

**"IT HELPS EDUCATE** little people to the medical problems we face, such as back trouble, and point out the goals that we can attain and also to educate parents about little people," he said.

Pickens said that there is still no real answer as to why some people are dwarfs, but he said that medical science has discovered 160 classifications of dwarfs, where they used to think there were only two or three.

"It is a type of genetic birth defect and not hereditary because my father is 6'2" and my mother is 5'10"," he said.

And, Although he is considered short by normal standards, Pickens' 4'7" is a good bit taller than most of the members of LPA.

"The majority are smaller than me, about 4 feet and below," he said.

**PICKENS AND HIS FAMILY** moved to Indianola when he was nine. He graduated from Indianola High School and attended MDJC before going to work with the Indianola Police Department from 1970 to 1973 before taking a job at Parchman.

He is an electronics whiz and for several years worked in electronics repair in Baton Rouge before returning to Indianola two years ago to go back to work as a police dispatcher.

Pickens remembers the first LPA convention he attended last year in Reno.

"It was quite a shock to see 600 little people all in one place. But, after awhile normal people started to look out of place," he said with a laugh.

He also added that being small is not much of a problem for him.

**"I MIGHT HAVE TROUBLE** getting stuff from a top shelf or something, but it's not that much of a problem," he said.

Pickens said that there were about 12 representatives from District Four at this year's convention. District Four covers Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

"We don't like to think of the convention as a social gathering for matchmaking. It's mainly to get together to let everyone know that they are not alone in the world," he said.

The bachelor did note however that there were twice as many women at the convention as men and said, "There were a lot of pretty ladies there."

Pickens said that the convention had workshops and sightseeing trips planned for all the different categories of little poeple who attended. The categories include little-littles (12 and under), teens, young adults and regulars plus an auxiliary of normal people and organizations that support the LPA.

**SOME OF THE SIDE TRIPS** included a Red Sox game, a harbor cruise, a clam bake at the Glouchester House and dances every night.

Pickens said that he also went to see the Broadway musical *Sugar Babies* starring Mickey Rooney.

The convention also included speeches and seminars by doctors from all over the world who specialize in treating the medical problems of little people. He also said that John Hopkins University has the only major medical facility devoted to treating little people.

Pickens said that the largest contingent of little people came from California.

"There are more little people living out there because there are more jobs for them like acting and even as welders in the aircraft industry," he said.

Pickens said that there are also lawyers and engineers in the LPA. He added that the group set up a foundation in 1965 to give scholarships to needy little people to continue their education. The foundation also gives grants to help further the research of medical problems and the causes of dwarfism.

Pickens also said that anyone interested in knowing more about the organization can contact him at home.

## 'Little people' gather

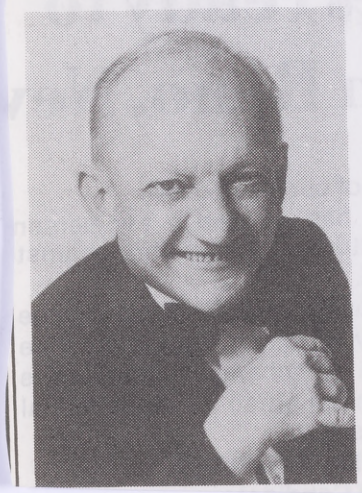
LPA CONVENTION -- Indianola's Charlie Pickens (inset) was one of the more than 400 members of the Little People of America (LPA) association that met in Boston recently for their annual convention. The group photo was taken on the historical Boston Harbor.

Photo Courtesy of the Boston Globe

The June 7 gathering at Beth Anderson's home in Pembroke, Mass. attracted a good crowd. Those in attendance in the first row (left to right) include: Amy Clemons, Celeste Staples, Mary Danville, Danny DiLucchio, Rosemarie Lamy and Wayne Mahannah, Jr. The second row members are: Mary Bishop, Gary Connors, Beth Anderson, Ruth Ricker, Kathy Kenefic, Al Staples and Mona DiLucchio.

Barbara Yturralde and Georgia Guild

Our own Georgia Guild, Burbank, is engaged to be married to Bob Rood of Salinas, Ca. on Saturday, March 3th. The newlywed couple will reside in Northern Ca. . Georgia is a long time resident of the L.A. area and long time member of LPA. Congratulations you both, and keep in touch.



**This year's Convention will center on the man it centered around when LPA was started in 1957, Billy Barty. The Founder got the ball rolling in 1957 with an appearance on Art Linkletter's 'House Party' Show.**

LPA NEWS FEBRUARY 79-MARCH 79

**A huge gathering of LP's and parents turned out for the District-11 meeting in Salem, Oregon, on Oct. 28th. It's not tough to tell that these lucky people had a super time in our Great Northwest.**

The Daily Breeze — Second Front Page
Sun., July 27, 1980 B1

# The 'little people'

## They're just like everyone else, but with 2 worlds — the big and the small

By Norma Meyer
Staff writer

Nineteen-month-old Neno Carlino is amused, then scared, then perturbed as he travels nine floors in a crowded elevator at the Pacifica Hotel crunched between a dozen pair of legs.

"He feels like we do in an elevator with normal-size people," jokes his 3-foot-5-inch mother to her surrounding peers.

For years, victims of dwarfism have been associated with Snow White's cutesy entourage or, worse, mysterious freaks in sideshows.

As children, they're called runts by school mates, and as adults, they're stopped in stores by inquisitive children and patronized or ignored by those ill at ease with them.

But in the last 15 years, little people (the name they prefer) have come a long way medically and emotionally. And that's why some 600 came together last week in Culver City for the 22nd annual Little People of America convention.

"We're the same as everybody else, except we live in two worlds — the big world and the small world," said 3-foot-9-inch actor Billy Barty, who in 1957 founded what is now a 5,000-member organization. "We can't hide from either world.

"There's a lack of knowledge about who we are and what we do. We've proved ourselves. We have college degrees and we're in all kinds of professions. Now we have to have the other world accept us."

### Only difference is a few feet

There are about 100,000 Americans who are 4 feet 10 inches and shorter, Barty said. The medical term for them is dwarfs, although there are 80 syndromes of dwarfism.

But little people have normal intelligence and a normal lifespan; indeed, if there was one phrase mentioned by the little people in informal conversations with a visitor, it was "just like normal-size people."

Their main concern is to dispel myths that little people are incapable of functioning in a world where bigger always seems better. Look, they say, pointing at various members milling around the hotel lobby. There's an accountant, a mechanic, a steelworker, a teacher, a test engineer on a nuclear submarine.

Of course, this was a convention and hundreds of little people or parents and spouses of little people from throughout the country were there to socialize, too.

And as conventions go, this one was a dilly, with some heavy-handed politicking for the office of a new Little People of America president, trips to Disneyland and Beverly Hills homes, baseball games and arm wrestling, costume parties and fashion shows and job recruitment by government agencies and an insurance company (whose pamphlets scattered across a table read, "We are Growing").

"The main event here is social," said 24-year-old Deb Hecht from Indiana. "When you're dancing, it's a lot nicer to be able to look someone in the eye."

Barty recalled his own love story.

"I saw Shirley for about 10 minutes at the '60 Las Vegas convention. We were married two years later."

In between, however, there were workshops for parents, for teens, for the engaged and newly married, for the job-seeking.

"People think the only world left for the little people is show business," said Barty, who is supposed to begin rehearsal this week for the movie "Under the Rainbow."

"But only one percent of little people are in show business. The rest lead normal lives."

"Hi," interjected Mary Lou Matthews of Topeka, Kan., extending her hand. "I'm married to Shorty the Tailor but he couldn't come."

"We're a very positive-thinking organization," added Barty, as children (called "little littles") tugged at his shirt and slapped his hand in greeting.

Little people, says Lee Kitchens, former president of the organization, have learned to work around "inconvenient" barriers such as too-tall pay telephones, drinking fountains and steps.

### Look on positive side

Cars? No problems, says Kitchens, who has four pairs of extenders for his car's brake and gas pedals, including one he carries in a briefcase while traveling.

Planes? Cinch, says Kitchens, who also has extenders for a small plane he and his wife owned.

Motorcycles? Snap, says Jack Carlino, who added extensions to his bike.

There are other barriers not so easy to conquer: the attitudes of bigger people. They often show up when a little person looks for employment.

"I've applied or interviewed for 125 jobs since January," said Jimmy Loyless, a 26-year-old sales manager from Atlanta.

"You have to stay psychologically motivated or it's easy to hit the skids. You have to work a little harder, try a little harder."

### Shared experiences

At a convention workshop, a psychiatrist from County Harbor-UCLA Medical Center was speaking in vague terms about being assertive. Deal with things when they happen, don't let them build up, etcetera, etcetera.

It seemed like the post-breakfast blahs had overwhelmed the seminar until a middle-age little person raised his hand.

"What do you do with a patronizing response?" he asked Dr. James Brust. "When it's half-sympathetic, half-aggressive and you know that individual isn't sincere. Most usually its a potential employer."

Yea, came the resounding response from the awakened audience.

The experienced Loyless answered for the psychiatrist.

"If I'm getting the vibes that someone's uncomfortable with my short stature, it's better to say what you feel about yourself being of short stature," said Loyless in his calm Southern drawl. "He might want to know how you'll interact with coworkers, if you'll feel withdrawn after you're hired."

Dr. David Sillence of County Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, which has one of a dozen clinics nationwide researching and treating little people, said they can be divided into two groups.

Little — B2, col. 1

## Little

From page B1

Little people who have proportionate bodies generally suffer from a deficiency of a growth hormone, he said. Sometimes, hormone shots can stimulate growth.

Those with disproportionate bodies, such as larger heads and smaller limbs, suffer from a skeletal disorder. Knowledge of most of the causes as well as cures are years away.

Each of the 80 syndromes of dwarfism has its set of problems, such as speech and hearing difficulties, arthritis and other problems related to underdevelopment of the bones, said Dr. William Horton, a convention representative from the clinic at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

### Children as dwarfs

Children are another problem.

Horton says some little people cannot conceive, while those with some other syndromes have a 50 percent chance of having a dwarf if they marry a dwarf and a 25 percent of having a little person if they marry someone of average stature.

Little people with growth hormone deficiencies rarely pass on dwarfism to their offspring, he said.

Intermarriage of some strains lessens the child's chances of survival.

"Doctors said we couldn't have a baby," said 23-year-old Jack Carlino, slinging blond, blue-eyed Neno over his shoulder. "That's the main thing that got us. We didn't believe what the medical records said."

"We were brought up to believe we could have anything we wanted," said Neno's mother, Ann.

"As long as we go for it," interrupted Carlino, who drives a forklift and carries heavy boxes in his job as a shipping clerk.

Psychiatrist Brust says many little people prefer to have little children because they feel they can control them better.

Said Kitchens, "The problem is when normal-sized people learn their child is a little person.

"Sure, they're not going to play football," said Kitchen, father of an adopted 20-year-old little person daughter and an adopted 24-year-old son who doctors misdiagnosed as a little person and now stands 5 feet 7.

"The parents will be constantly surprised what their kids can do if they're not treated special or like mascots or pets," Kitchen said.

Al Stickney, a little person, conducts a support group in San Francisco for average-size parents and average-size siblings of little people.

"There may be problems, especially if the little person is the oldest. They're no longer the big brother or sister," said Stickney, who was born to average-sized parents and has a sister 5 feet 8 inches tall and a nephew who is 6-feet-2.

Delores Vercellino, a bubbly, talkative little person, takes out a snapshot of her normal-size, 15-year-old son.

"See, those are my eyes," she said. "You should have seen me and my husband (also a little person) at the Portland convention with Jimmy when he was 5."

She giggles looking back on those times, but the smile briefly fades as she remembers others.

"Sure, there were times when everything would be OK at home with him and his friends and then we'd go out and he'd feel uncomfortable. Everyone has to adjust."

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Jack Carlino, above, hoists son, Neno, for a better view. Below, a little person throws it to first base at convention softball game. And Ed Dailey,

81

# The world's most famous 45-inch tall actor is a star to movie fans, his family and especially the over 100,000 little people in America.

# BILLY BARTY

by AGGIE ANUNCIACION

**There are "still people who are anti-little," admits Billy but he doesn't include *Fantasy Island*'s Herve and Camille Villechaize among them.**

After more than fifty years in show business, Billy Barty is a firm believer in the "Three R's." They're not, as one might assume, the basics of education currently at the center of the controversy as to "why Johnny can't read." Instead, Barty's "three R's" lists the elements—or, more precisely, the lack of them—which might explain why the world Johnny lives in is falling apart.

The diminutive (3 feet, 9 inch) Barty is recognized by those who know him as unfailingly positive and enthusiastic in his approach to life. When asked to describe himself, he thoughtfully replies, "Realistic, religious, and respectful." And, without a doubt, Barty has had ample opportunities to acquire—and exercise—each trait.

Born in Millsboro, Pennsylvania, Barty was three years old when his family moved to California. Eventually, the realization came that he was the only member of his family who wouldn't be of "normal" height, but on that fateful day Billy made his entrance into showbiz, he was simply an active toddler with a yen for showing off his talents. "My dad was carrying me in his arms down the street in front of Selznick Studios," recalls Billy, "and they were filming outside. Dad put me down and told me, 'Billy, do a head spin for the director.' So I stood on my head and spun around and the director saw it and put it in the movie."

From that bit of inspired dexterity, Billy launched his career which has since gone from vaudeville to nightclubs to television and motion pictures. Presently starring in *Under the Rainbow*, a Warner Brothers release with Chevy Chase and Carrie Fisher, Billy is again displaying his comedic talents as Otto Kriegling, a Nazi spy assigned by Hitler to come to the United States to rendezvous with his Japanese counterpart, Nakamuri, and pass a map to him. It's 1938 and the Culver City Hotel is selected for the meeting place because it's supposedly remote, quiet and ideally suited for high-voltage espionage.

**< Billy Barty told *RBH*'s Aggie Anunciacion that the UN has officially declared 1981 as the Int'l Year of Disabled Persons.**

Meanwhile, unbeknownst to Otto, Nakamuri, and Hitler, a Hollywood movie mogul is having problems of his own. Confronted with the possible cancellation of his next film due to the Coogan Act (named after child actor Jackie Coogan and restricting exploitation of child labor in movies), the mogul is struck with a brainstorm when he realizes he can proceed with his project by using midgets. And can you guess where the mogul installs his cast of 150 little people during the filming? To further complicate matters, a convention of Japanese photographers is also ensconced in the hotel. For Nakamuri, who's been advised his contact is a midget, it's no small problem. And for Otto, who's been instructed that the secret code is "The pearl is in the river," a quick glance at the assembled conventioneers could easily discourage the most ardent Aryan agent.

Although it's generally accepted the movie being filmed is *The Wizard of Oz*, that celluloid classic is never openly referred to presumably because of legalities, hence, the title *Under the Rainbow*.

However, unlike the recent *Charlie Chan and the Curse of the Dragon Queen* starring Peter Ustinov as the Oriental mystery-solver, the creative powers of *Under the Rainbow* chose to wisely avoid accusations of stereotyping and racism by casting Mako, a highly-esteemed actor who won an Oscar nomination for *The Sand Pebbles*, as Nakamuri. As for the little folk, Barty was clearly the only person who could assist in providing a source.

"We've worked for two years in casting the movie," Billy says. "I had a ball working with Chevy and Carrie; they're both very pleasant. Everyone's been very pleasant on this because they've gone out of their way to co-operate. And that includes all the little people we hired through our organization and the Billy Barty Foundation.

"Only one per cent of the little people were already actors, but this was a thrill of a lifetime for all of them. After all, when are they going to have the opportunity to make another picture? As it is, it's been forty years since the last one."

The organization Barty refers to is the Little People of America which he started in 1957. At their first meeting, the hotel publicists referred to the assembly as the Midgets of America because, explains Barty, "in those days 'midgets' was the proper term simply because nobody wanted to be called a dwarf since everybody knew what *that* term meant.

"A midget is what you would call a perfectly proportioned little person and it's really a pituitary or hypopituitary type of drawfism. You

*continued*

have your proportionate and the disproportionate of which there are eighty different types. So, at that time, everyone wanted to be known as a midget because, in people's minds, when you said 'dwarf' they immediately thought of something they saw in fairy tales, right? Because that's exactly what the dictionary said in those days: 'Dwarf: An ugly, little man who plays in fairy tales—like in *Rumplestiltskin.*'

"So when the publicists said Midgets of America, it automatically eliminated an awful lot of people and then dwarfs didn't think *they* were invited. We discussed the problem and that's why we came up with the name Little People of America.

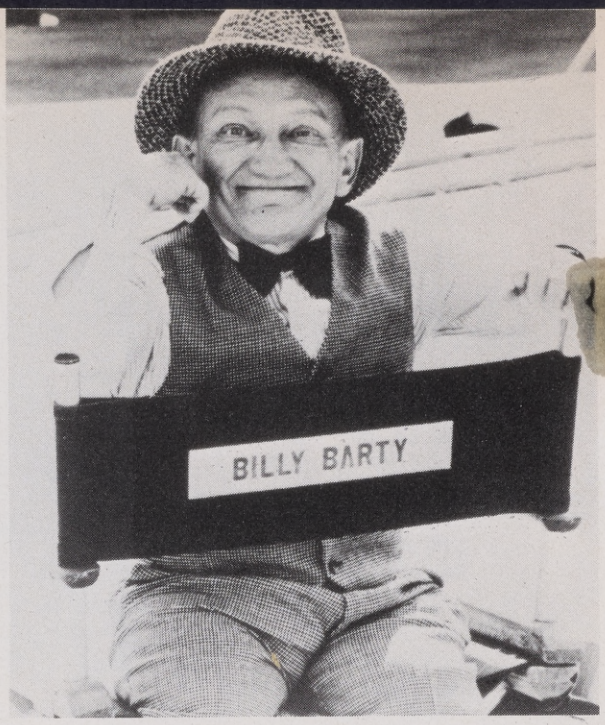
"Of course," chuckles Billy, "a lot of people didn't like that either because they thought we might be talking about children."

Considering the estimated 100,000 little people in the United States (the estimate world-wide is over half a million), LPA has had its work clearly defined since its inception. Yet, in spite of its humanitarian intent, not all little people are eager to become members. One, in particular, was the late actor Michael Dunn whom Barty knew personally.

"Michael hated being small and it was really unfortunate. He was anti-little and there are still people like that today who don't want to be part of the organization. I knew Dunn—I had him over at my house for dinner, I drove around him before he became really big but he just didn't want to associate with us. It was a shame. Before he passed away, though, he was using our hospitals and our doctors to help him out. He had the type of dwarfism where he didn't have any hips."

Medical problems are usually the first, but far from the least, of the obstacles which confront little people on a daily basis. Through the efforts of LPA, however, an understanding and knowledge—both physically and mentally—of little people are being established.

"We have a medical staff of over twenty-five doctors," says Barty, "who really know and understand us. They've learned a lot from us because the organization gave them a quantity for comparison going back to 1964 when a doctor attended one of our conventions. He was the




**"You can continue to harp on the negative side of everything, but you're not going to accomplish anything until you start doing something positive."**

photo courtesy Baker/Winoker Public Relations

**A lifelong sports fan, Billy does most of his own stunts in *Under the Rainbow*. No doubt he uses some tricks from college days when he lettered in two sports.**

former head of the radiology department at the University of Minnesota and he has a daughter who is small. He began taking X-rays on about 100 little people. In those days, there were about fifteen or twenty different types (of little people) that were classified. Today, there are over eighty that are classified, and each one has a different reason, a different problem."

Because only the disproportionate dwarfism can be immediately diagnosed—detection depends on the type of dwarfism—LPA and The Billy Barty Foundation understandably serves not just little people themselves but their friends and families.

"Five years ago," says Barty, "I started the Billy Barty Foundation to help supplement those organizations which deal in medical, social, and vocational problems for short stature people. Our main goal is to raise enough money so we can acquire property and build an international headquarters that will serve as a nerve center for any and all information pertaining to little people."

Part of the fund-raising comes from the annual golf tournament that's held every September at the Via Verde Country Club. "This will be our ninth year," Billy says proudly. "The tournament provides us with publicity and recognition and we fly in little people from all over the U.S. And we also have big people participating as patrons as well as celebrities."

Billy sees that it's mainly a lack of education "on everybody's part" which is the root of the discrimination. "I don't like the word 'discrimination' although there's still a lot of it and I'll talk about it. I might even use a gag in my nightclub act. I'll say, 'We marched on Washington today—and nobody *saw* us.' Or maybe I'll say, 'You know about people who complain about sitting at the back of the bus? Well, I can't even get *on* the bus.' And when it comes to discrimination, you don't know the meaning of the word until you go to a public bathroom and . . .'

"You can continue to harp on the negative side of everything, but you're not going to accomplish anything until you start doing something positive. I don't personally believe in militant stands—I think it creates more hate than anything. When I make a joke of it, it makes people think of these things—the realities. Now, if you take a different, say, militant attitude about it and say, 'You've *got* to do this, you've *got* to do that,' most people are going to reply, 'We don't have to do *nothing*.'"

Recalling one instance when his approach served well, Billy remembers, "In the last couple of years, we had parents who walked out when they realized their children were little. The hospitals called and told us the mothers had left the child at the hospital. The father was gone. They just didn't know what to do and, so, homes were broken up. Each case—and there were three of them at this particular time—happened around the time of my golf tournament, so I said, 'Would you come out and take a look?'

"The social worker got hold of the parents, the parents came out and saw how little people were adjusted, were happy, and were even *mingling* with big people! They saw us participating fully—playing golf, anything—and every single one of those families joined the organization."

Billy's own acceptance of the realities of his situation began even though "it never really occurred to me that I wasn't going to grow because nobody reminded me that I was small. Nobody *told* me I was handicapped and, yet, today we're officially labeled as handicapped."

After graduating from Mar-Ken Professional High School, Billy entered Los Angeles City College where he majored in journalism. Due to his writing ability and knowledge of sports, he became Sports Editor and Public Relations Director for Athletics. Indeed, he not only wrote about and promoted the athletic program at LACC, he lettered in basketball and football.

*continued on page 93*

**Things aren't looking up when Nazi spy Kriegling and Japanese spy Nakamuri rendezvous surrounded by little folk and Japanese photogs!**

photo by Larry Barbier

## BILLY BARTY

*continued from page 35*

"When I tried out for football," Barty reminisces with a mischievous grin, "the coach said he didn't have a uniform to fit me. So I went home and my mom made the pants and shirt. I got some shoes—they were outdoor tennis shoes with high tops. Then I took shoulder pads and, with the trainer, cut them down. We took some hip pads and he used half of one set around me, all the way to my back. We'd use one half on one side, the other half on the other side. Then we put an inch of foam rubber in the helmet, inside the back, glued it in, and then I went to the coach and said, 'I've got my uniform!'"

Today, Billy divides his time between acting and his dedication to LPA and the Billy Barty Foundation. "We have newsletters, chapter letters, and the convention editions which we publish. We have a handbook, too, called *The Idea Machine*, from which a little person can learn about buying a car, buying clothes, anything which will help them adjust to being little.

"Then a big part of our organization is the Parents Auxiliary, whose members are big parents of little children."

Parenting is an important part of Billy's own life, being the father of Lori Ellen, 18, and son Braden, 10. Billy first met his wife, Shirley, in 1960 at an LPA Convention held in Las Vegas. And Lori, who is small, was one of the little people in *Under the Rainbow* with her father.

Having starred in Sid and Marty Krofft's film, *Pufnstuf*, and on the TV series *Sigmund the Sea Monster* and the popular *Dr. Shrinker*, Billy's comic genius and natural affability place him in a unique position with kids. "I think that, obviously, because of my size," he says, "there's a good rapport with children. They feel I'm on their level and they feel comfortable around me. Even if they don't in the beginning, by the time I'm through talking to them, they're calling me Billy and I'm calling him or her by their first name."

While kids may call him "Hugo" (from the *Shrinker* series) or his real name, Billy is as big a fan of theirs as they are his. Perhaps that may be one of the biggest reasons Barty refuses to wallow in negativism. A Mormon, Billy acknowledges his religion plays a big part in his life, serving to remind him of his blessings. Simultaneously, he also realizes the pitfalls of being a member of a society where materialism often takes priority over intangibles like respect, family bonds, and good will.

"We made a documentary once in 1966," he says, "and it dealt with the difficulties little people encounter. It didn't go over because it wasn't militant. If we had burned a building, it would have been a success. But, due to the fact that we think positive and our motto is 'Think Big'—and that doesn't mean size, it means looking at life the right way—it wasn't successful."

Success is, admittedly, a term whose definition is clarified by a person's particular viewpoint. However, when it comes to Billy Barty—actor, humanitarian, philanthropist *and* athlete—the term is not only applicable but accurate. After all, a rainbow's beauty and magnificence are reflected not only from above—but below as well. □

**Co-founder of the Little People of America and the guiding hand of The Billy Barty Foundation, Billy "Thinks Big."**

## The Billy Barty Foundation, Inc.

There is an immediate need for national headquarters with a permanent address and phone number for the Little People of America's members and the hundreds of thousands of individuals world-wide with short stature problems. People in general continue to refer to little people as midgets. Actually, there are two types of dwarfism—the proportionate and the disproportionate. The proportionate are the type commonly referred to as midgets; the disproportionate have over 80 different types of which the achondroplastic is the dominate type. Little people are those individuals who are 4'10" and under. Very few little people are small due to their family and ethnic background.

The facts above are included in a written presentation available through the Foundation. Upon your request, a slide show or movie—or both—is also available. For more information, you can write to:

The Billy Barty Foundation, Inc.
10954 Moorpark Avenue
North Hollywood, Ca. 91602

or you can call (213) 980-4770 or 980-4701.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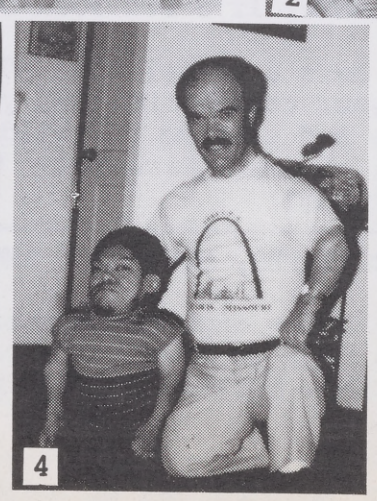
HEIDI BARTHEL, LAC MEMBER, WITH PARENTS AND BROTHER, RESIDES IN TORRANCE.

The pastor is joyfully announcing this good-looking couple as Mr. & Mrs. Roger Pouliot....(the former Stacie Nichols).



1. What a swim!!Donald Bryant, Susie Barnes,Harry Wanty, Louise Yankofsky, Arturo Gil & Annie Danberg -- at beach party. 2. Jody Tarabilda, Gracie Oliver, Leslye Melkonian, Daniel Margulies, Paul Miller--Labor Day. 3. Donna Della Valle and Debbie Dixon had a great time at '84 convention! 4. Jim Cady and Ed Diaz (Phoenix) were roommates in ST. LOUIS. Jim visited him after the convention. 5. Newlyweds Brian & Amy Templeton, attended annual Labor Day picnic.

# Little people

## *A teenager's death focuses problems of the short in stature*

**By Ann Japenga**
**Los Angeles Times**

COSTA MESA, Calif. — Seventeen-year-old Michelle Crandall liked to dress up in high heels and skirts to attend Costa Mesa High School, where she was a junior. In her '65 Mustang, a gift from her father, she patronized rock clubs on the weekends. She occasionally skipped school to sunbathe on nearby beaches.

When Shelli, as she was known, hanged herself in her mother's garage last Nov. 6, her friends said that it was because she was upset over a car accident 10 days before.

Her father, Richard Crandall, believes the suicide of Shelli, who left a note saying that she "just couldn't handle the life God gave me," had more to do with the fact that Michelle was just an inch over four feet tall.

**Michelle Crandall**
*She 'couldn't handle life'*

"I'm not saying her short stature was the total reason she killed herself, but I'm sure it was part of it. How important is appearance when you're 17 years old?" Crandall asked. "How important is being different?"

The tragedy brought back memories of Crandall's own adolescence, both he and Shelli's mother, Marilyn, are dwarfs. He said that it was a time marked by a self-loathing that he has never completely shaken.

For the last 23 years, Crandall has worked to prove himself a success despite his size. He graduated from the University of Hawaii with a degree in business administration. It took him a year to find a company that would employ him. He went on to be a successful salesman, working most recently for a industrial electronic company here in this city about 40 miles southwest of downtown Los Angeles.

Neither Crandall nor his wife socialized with other little people. If you asked him several years ago if he ever had suicidal thoughts or depression related to his stature, he would have denied it vigorously, he said. It is only since his daughter's death that Crandall has been willing to admit there are emotional and social problems that come with being short.

*Los Angeles Times*

**The suicide of his daughter caused Richard Crandall to publicize the problems of little people.**

Crandall said that little people have been hurt by their own refusal to acknowledge their needs. The nation's largest organization for the short-statured, Little People of America, is primarily a social group, he said. There are no organizations aimed at changing public opinion or policy as it affects little people, according to Little People of America spokesman Charles Bedow.

Bedow said that his organization does not consider short stature to be a disability. He defines being short as "an inconvenience."

After Shelli's death, Crandall said that he sought out organi-

*See LITTLE, Page B-5*

# Little

*Continued from Page B-1*

zations for the disabled to vent his feelings of frustration and isolation. This is what he found; "Short-statured persons are not included in these organizations and are not considered a minority, disabled, handicapped or disadvantaged."

Little people (estimates say there are 20,000 to 100,000 of them in the U.S.) are not eligible for assistance from government agencies solely on the basis of being short-statured, he found, although they may qualify if they have additional physical disabilities.

Three months after Shelli's death, Crandall, 43, quit his job to devote full time to organizing little people. With his newly formed non-profit corporation, Short Stature Foundation, he plans to conduct a census to determine just how many short-statured people there are in the country. The group also will lobby to have short-statured people included in programs for the disabled.

Crandall said that short-statured people need vocational and genetic counseling; he said that he feels he might have failed his daughter in not being able to supply information on these topics.

In addition, he said, short-statured people face unique health problems; Crandall's doctors have told him he will require hip transplants someday. Among the complications suffered by short-statured people are hip and spine problems, premature arthritis and spinal-cord damage, said Dr. Maureen Bocian, assistant professor of pediatrics at University of California, Irvine Medical Center.

"There are many, many different causes of short stature (as many as 200) and some are more disabling than others," said Bocian, who works in the division of developmental disabilities and clinical genetics. "Short-statured people want to be looked at as capable human beings; on the other hand, they do have disabilities. If you try to make both points, they kind of conflict with each other."

Crandall's plan has not received unanimous support from little people, he said, because many would rather not be thought of as disabled.

"I would call that denial," Crandall said.

Both Richard and Marilyn Crandall grew up surrounded by parents and siblings of normal stature. In both cases, theirs were the first incidents of short stature in the family. Marilyn Crandall's parents advised against the couple having children because of the possibility the child would be short, Crandall said.

But when Michelle Crandall was born on May 25, 1966, Richard said that he and his wife were elated, despite the fact their baby was indeed short-statured. "We felt that whatever happened, we were going to be able to get through it," he said. Two years later, Marilyn Crandall gave birth to a boy of normal stature, Michael, now 15.

Although Crandall said that Shelli never seemed particularly bothered by her short stature, it undoubtedly began to cause her problems as she entered her teens.

Said Joan Weiss, a senior social worker at Johns Hopkins Medical center in Baltimore: "The teen years for a short-statured person do represent the most difficult period they go through. Being different during the teen years can be just devastating, particularly in situations where you don't feel good about yourself as a pre-teen. So often, short-statured teen-agers are left behind by their friends when they start dating."

Her father said, "Shelli had only one close friend. Michelle never had a boyfriend. To be a junior in high school without a boyfriend — that's tragic."

Denise D'Anne

Jan 4, 1977
351 Guerrero
SF 94103
431-4172

Dear Nino + Mary Ann:

It has been quite awhile since I last saw you. I remember well the delightful dinner. As usual I have been up to my ears in many things I suspect you too have been busy. After all I haven't heard from you either.

At any rate, I have finally begun the article I promised I would write. I say begun because some people have read it and want more. So I am hoping we can get together and do more work on the article. Enclosed is what I have done and I want you to look it over, give me your opinion and later more information to round it out. The title will change, most likely, as publishers like to do their own titles. However, I think the present title is catchy + will draw readers. That is what we want - readers. I hope you don't think "Dwarfism & Freaks" is derogatory, as the article is entirely sympathetic and informative.

We can discuss it all later but when we do discuss it, I would like a couple of more, besides Bob + Jackie, to be interviewed. I think there's a good chance this article will be published in a Sunday supplement - here in S.F as well as some other states.

I will call you in a few days to get your reaction + also set up a time for us to get together. I can visit you as I have use of a car now.

Lots of love
Denise

~~1081 Dolores St., S.F 94110~~

DWARF IN A FREEZER

SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF BEING SMALL

Living in a world of giants is a challenge that few dare venture alone. No one knows that better than the less than average height male and female. Dwarf is the medical term describing people under the height of 4'10" which encompasses 12 medical categories of "dwarfism" with its 85 variations. The term is preferred by these underaverage sized people. The other acceptable appellation is "little people." In fact for the past _____ years the little people have developed a unique organization which meets their special needs - The Little People of America. This organization has had a great impact in the way most of us view dwarfism. But more importantly it has affected how dwarfs view themselves. Mostly positive.

Dwarfs are a minority who have effectively entered the main stream of American life. They managed this unique feat not by mass protests or special governmental aid, but through the subtlety of education. The Little People of America has been their vehicle. It has brought people of under average height together to not only solve their special problems but to bolster their images. Through positive publicity campaigns centered around charity sports events (they play baseball with the tall folks, 6 feet and over, as well as others), the annual convention and selection of a queen, TV shows and interviews along with medical research, they have eliminated most of the old myths about thermselves. They are no more no less intelligent, skilled or capable of love than the average sized person. In fact more than half the dwarfs have average sized parents.

However, the Little People of America has ameliorated only some of the problems - principally image. A little person must still cope with living in a world made to conform to the needs of the average

sized person. To do this takes ingenuity and stamina. In California for instance, Secretary of State March Fong was not only a heroine to the average woman for her stand in eliminating pay toilets but also to the male dwarf. The usual plumbing (urinals) in men's public restrooms is too high for a 4'10" male. He had to make the choice of either squeezing under the door of the toilet or paying a dime to relieve himself.

That is only one of the many day to day hurdles that both male and female dwarfs must overcome. The biggest obstacle to their well being is other people's attitude toward them. They are frequently made acutely aware of their unique stature by stares, derisive comments, childish teasing, and even violence to their person. One man tells of how his average sized teenage son would precede him, without his knowledge, into his neighborhood grocery store to rout the young boys who delighted in taunting his father. Another tells of how he was literally set upon by a crowd of people and beat for no apparent reason except for his distinct size. The pain of being beaten or embarrassed is small besides the refusal of employment because of a dwarfs size. One of every 10,000 births produces a dwarf. Survival for a dwarf is more than being able to live with oneself and one neighbor - it is being able to survive economically. Every dwarf who obtains a job must work especially hard to prove herself or himself. Fortunately, the barriers of employment are swiftly disappearing. From employment as circus curiosities, the little people are now able to stand proud as they find security in partaking in every phase of occupational opportunities. Nonetheless prejudice continues and many little person must gear herself/himself to the constant pressures to prove her/his worth.

Life for most little people is a series of normal day to day events interrupted occasionally by the ever present awareness of the

the limitations imposed by a relatively giant society. ¶ Most barriers have been crumbling thanks to such ingenius inventors such as Bob East of Hayward, California. East is a member of the Little People of America and a machinist by trade. He has come up with some unusual aids for the little people. Most of us have no trouble reaching for groceries on a shelf or reaching into a market freezer. However, for the little person shopping for food is more than a chore, it is a challenge and even a hazard. East decided it was time to eliminate the challenge and the danger. He invented a clever device that looks like a thick pencil with a hook on the end. When the hook is pulled out, a 3-foot rod appears and any item on the top shelves can be swiftly knocked off and into the hands of the shopper. The rod is also used to retrieve frozen food from deep freezers. Many an embarrassed little person has fallen into freezers before East's invention. However, Nino Carlino, a good friend of East's tells how his "little, little" (an endearing term for children) teenage son refuses to use the device preferring instead to climb into the freezer to seledt an item. ¶ East spent four years inventing a gaget based on the same principle as the food retriver to place a dime in a public phone without having to climb on the seat. By the time he successfully perfected the device the phone company changed the system from the old-fashioned round holes to a vertical slot. East nonetheless was able to proudly use the device and made his first call to his wife. So that little people could drive any automobile manufactured, he designed an adjustable, detachable extension device to put on the accelorator and brake of automobiles. East is also in the process of designing a light weight portable step-ladder to be used mostly when traveling to motels and hotels. It will be used to turn on light switches and for sinks which are out of reach for the average little person.

In fact, no little person's home id complete without a box or

step-ladder, especially in the kitchen where dish washing and cooking make the ladder a must. It is even used to turn on light switches for those homes not equipped with East's specially made plastic extension to the wall light switch. However, this extension is not low enough for a five year old little, little to reach. The wife of Carlino, Mary ~~Ann~~ Jane, recalls how she had to always ask someone to turn on a light or use a ladder when she was a girl.

Little by little the ingenuity of East and others like him make living in houses that giants built easier. Some little people who could afford to have their kitchens renovated to suit their height - the lowering of stoves and sinks - but do not take this option. Lowering of stoves and sinks can also lower the reaale value of a little person's house. That is one reason most little people refuse to make the change. Others feel a strong sense of duty to their average sized children or friends, or do not want to appear to be too different to alter the proportions of their houses.

The problems are not confined to the kitchen, however. Finding proper clothing and shoes are practically insoluable, especially for women. About the only shoes available to a woman of under average height are girls shoes - few of which look anything like women's shoes. Most little women wear a child's 13 but in triple E. Men's sizes range from 2½ EE to 4½ EEE in boys shoes. Fortunately, boys shoes look more like men's shoes. But since little men have wide feet they must buy a larger size to make up for the width. Consequently, their shoes are usually uncomfortable and do not hold up well. Both men and women just either have their clothing hand-made or have store purchased clothing dramatically altered. Some little men are very adept with the sewing machine to compensate for the lack of choice in clothing.

Other problems exist in the area of health (back problems), family

(whether to marry an average sized person or vice versa), rejection of normal sized parents of a dwarf child and others. However, through united effort, resources and the numerical clout of the Little People of America thus are resolving most of their problems. Some manufactures of clothing have already brought out clothing lines for little people. Educational services are now available to average sized parents who have dwarf children. An adoption network among little people is also set up for those parents not wishing to raise a dwarf. But the greatest gain for little people is their self-respect which has drawn them out of their isolated enclaves and made them a proud member of society.

# Think Big..

"Think Big" is their motto, and think big they do—the "Little People" (dwarfed) who met at Holiday Inn in Concord for their annual installation of officers. Neno Carlino of Richmond, left, outgoing president, congratulated incoming president Bob East of Oakland and his new staff—Mrs. A.F. Stickney, vice-president; Mrs. L. W. Balknap, secretary, and Mrs. Carlino, treasurer.

—Transcript photos by Bob Broman

**WOMEN**

Dora Friedrich. Social Editor

Concord, Ca. Transcript—5

Wednesday, March 12, 1969

Among honored guests at the installation dinner was Billy Barty, of Los Angeles, right, television personality and founder of the San Francisco-Bay Area Chapter of Little People of America, who discussed with the new president the group's forthcoming two-day April convention to be held at Holiday Inn in Concord.

## Karate made her grow

**Mary Lou Hager** is only 3-feet-11, but mess with her and you are liable to be looking up at her from the floor.

Hager, 28, is a dwarf. She also holds a black belt in karate and said she believes she is the only dwarf to win one.

A medical secretary at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pa., Hager took up karate 3½ years ago "to be safe when I walked the street."

## Little People convention set

STOCKTON — A hundred dwarfs from California, Nevada and Hawaii are expected at the District 12 meeting of Little People of America at the Holiday Inn/Holidome in Stockton on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 25-27.

The Stockton Convention and Visitors Bureau of San Joaquin County is hosting the event, with Alfred Stickney of San Bruno, president of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, and his wife, Harriet, immediate past president, serving as co-chairmen.

Participating from the Eastbay will be the Robert Easts of Hayward, Frank Colla and Renee Wittmeier of San Lorenzo, the James Farringtons of Walnut Creek and their children, Yvette and Dana, and the Carl McGregors of Alameda and their children, Bonnie and Rob.

Billy Barty, a founder of Little People of America, and Betty Stewart, the District 12 director, will chair the business meetings.

The family-oriented organization has a national membership of 3,000. Last year its 25th national convention in Reno drew 650 persons.

On the agenda for the Stockton convention are activities for all ages, plus a series of discussion groups on needs of parents of dwarfed children and teen-agers. For more information, call 589-0695 or 209-943-1987.

Harry Lomas of Concord chatted during dinner festivities with three "Little Littles" (as the younger dwarfed people are called)—17-year-old RoseAnn Colla of San Lorenzo, left, 19-year-old Betti Logomarsino of San Leandro, and 16-year-old Jim Lomas of Concord.

# They've Conquered Distance Between Their Ears!

By DORA FRIEDRICH

Their motto is "Think Big" — and think big they do!

What the "Little People" lack in stature, they more than make up for in personality! This was our conclusion after we spent a thoroughly delightful evening with about 50 members of the San Francisco - Bay Area Chapter of Little People (dwarfed) who gathered Saturday evening at Holiday Inn in Concord for a gala installation dinner and dance.

They were friendly and outgoing, and put us at ease immediately, even though we had entertained a few thoughts about being a little self-conscious about our own height. One of average height tends to forget, we found after the first few minutes, that the Little People are of an average 48 inches tall — give or take a few inches.

One of the shortest of the Little People present at Saturday's festivities was Billy Barty of Los Angeles, founder of the Bay Area Chapter and now district director for the Little People of California, Nevada and Hawaii.

Billy, three foot, eight inches tall, has distinguished himself as an entertainer. He has his own highly popular children's television show out of Los Angeles, and has made many guest appearances with network stars, the most recent on the Smothers Brothers and the Red Skelton shows.

Installed as president during the informal rites was Bob East of Oakland, who was reared and attended school in the Pittsburg area, and is now considered one of the top machinists for Allies Machines in Alameda.

Neno Carlino, the Chapter's outgoing president, is a federal government employee at Naval Air Supplies in Alameda, where he solders silver. Like her husband, Mrs. Carlino, the newly-installed treasurer, is dwarfed. She was a storekeeper in Oregon before she met her husband at a convention of Little People in Las Vegas, where, Neno smiles, he won "first prize." Neno has five brothers and a sister, all average; Mrs. Carlino has four sisters, also all average.

Rounding out the family circle at the Carnos' Richmond home are their two teenage daughters, both of average height — Peggy, 17, and Judy, 15; and two dwarfed sons — Jack, 11, and Anthony, 9 years of age. Mrs. Carlino keeps busy as a homemaker and sales representative for a cosmetic firm.

We asked Mrs. Carlino if medical science had discovered the reason why one child in a family should be born dwarfed, another average.

"No one knows why as yet," she told us, "but research is going on constantly to try and find the explanation."

Mrs. A.F. Stickney of San Bruno, the incoming vice-president, is a homemaker and former teacher from Wisconsin who met her husband, also dwarfed, at a Little People's party "at the Carlinos' backyard." Mrs. Stickney is also northern California chairman and advisor to the average parents of the "Little - Littles," as the younger people are called.

Completing the new officer roster for the Chapter is Mrs. W.L. Belknap of Hayward, who assumed secretarial duties from Cathy Simpson of San Francisco, an attractive young brunette who met her good-looking fiance at a district meeting.

Others enjoying the installation dinner included several teen-agers — 16-year-old Jim Lomas of Concord, there with his average father, Harry; Roseann Colla of San Lorenzo, Betty Logomarsino of San Leandro, and a pretty teenager from Santa Rose area (whose name we didn't learn) there with her average parents.

Like the adult Little People, the teenagers enjoy regular meetings and a variety of social events such as bowling, dancing and picnics.

Two pretty young blonde matrons, both dwarfed, were seated side by side with their husbands . . . and at first we were sure that we were seeing double until we learned that they were mirror twins. Darlene is married to a personable average man, Carl McGregor, and they are expecting a new arrival at their Alameda home in May. Dorlene's dwarfed husband, Kenneth, has a sense of humor that endears him immediately to everyone who meets him.

Our biggest distance to conquer is the distance between our ears," Neno Carlino told us during a moment of serious conversation. 'Where there is a will there is a way' — and we have found our way in a world of average size people with the help of our organization and its affiliate groups."

"How do you like us?" he asked us as we departed.

"You are absolutely great," was our reply. And we sincerely meant it.

And they must have liked us too — or at least they are partial to Concord. For the Little People will converge here again soon — this time in April, again at Holiday Inn, for a two-day district meeting filled with business and fun sessions, luncheons and banquets, and all kinds of discussion about "thinking big."

Parley plans have already begun, and this past weekend the Easts and the Carlinos came back to Concord to discuss the parley with Mayor Warren Boggess.

A cordial invitation is extended by the new president, Mr. East, to dwarfed adults to participate in Chapter activities, which include a regular business meeting the first Friday evening of each month at American Savings and Loan Building in San Leandro.

# Big Convention For Little People

Concord is being visited by the little people this weekend.

The Little People of America, an organization of dwarfs and their children, held its district convention in Concord.

The purpose of the convention was to elect officers and discuss some of the problems that are common to people who are smaller than average.

Neno Caelino, a past president of the Bay Area chapter of the organization and this year's convention chairman, pointed out, "We're just as average as a six - footer. The only distance we have to conquer is that between our ears."

**A RICHMOND** machinist, Caelino and his wife, who is also dwarfed, have four children. Two boys are dwarfed and two girls are average - sized.

"Size is determined by God's will," Caelino explained.

He said that many little people have hard times finding jobs — but emphasized that once they have proven their ability, employers look at them in a different light.

"We have people in all the different fields. Name any job and you'll find a little person there. We have machinists, teachers, accountants, engineers — you name it," Caelino declared.

**CAELINO** explained that one of the main functions of the organization is to help the dwarf children, or the "little

(Continued on Page 2A, Col.3)

**A SMALL MINORITY VISITS CONCORD**

Mr. and Mrs. Neno Caelino and Mel Cohen of Pleasant Hill take part in a discussion at a district convention of the Little People of America in Concord. Caelino was chairman of the convention which had 50 dwarfs in attendance. Cohen is the president of Human Growth, Inc., a Pleasant Hill growth-research organization.

## • Convention

(Continued from Page 1A)

little people" as they are called.

Saturday afternoon at the convention was spent discussing the problems the little little people face.

"Sure a lot of the kids have some problems," Caelino said. "The parents' auxiliary was formed to help the kids learn to face the public. We hope to get the kids to join the club. I know when they see how we act it gives them a lot of confidence," said Caelino.

**OTHER THAN** being short, the little people lead lives very similar to average - sized persons.

They drive cars, hold down responsible positions, bear children and aren't very different than anyone else.

"Lots of people get the wrong impression, but only two per cent of the little people are show people," Caelino said. One of those show people, Billy Barty, is the outgoing president and is in attendance at the convention.

Mrs. Alfred Stickney, vice president of the chapter, pointed out the organization works closely with any groups doing research on dwarfism.

**"WE'RE ONE** group that is trying to eliminate itself," she smiled.

She said that special mechanical devices are used to help the little people in doing the tasks, such as driving an auto or pushing an elevator button, that would come more easily for an average - sized person.

Mrs. Stickney, a former schoolteacher who retired to raise a family, said that while she was teaching she found she had more empathy for her students because of her small size.

"There wasn't this big creature hovering over them all day long," she said.

Caelino urged any little people or people who know of little people who are not members of the non - profit organization to call him at 526-6226 in Richmond.

# Their Big-Little World

—Independent p

MOWER NENO WITH THE EASTS, CENTER, AND MARY JANE.

By NORMAN COLBY
Independent Staff Writer

Richmond's Neno Carlino, 50 years old, four feet-three inches, 120 pounds, has to work harder than most people to hold his job, raise his famigy and perform the everyday tasks of living.

That goes for his wife, Mary Jane, three feet-nine inches, their children and all members of the "Little Peiople of America."

Carlino, a metalsmith helper at Alameda Naval Air Station, says, "I had to prove my ability and willingness to work more than the average person to get a job. And we dwarfs usually stick to one job longer and are more dependable."

Carlino was a maintenance man for a Berkeley firm for 16 years before taking his present position.

The Carlino home at 5828 Santa Cruz Dr., looks like any other Richmond residential structiure—nejt, lived-in, with lawn closely clipped.

The tables, chairs and other fixtures do not belong to Tom Thumb's world, but are full-size.

This seems natural enough since two of the Carlino children, daughters Peggy, 17, and Judy, 14, are full-size, too.

The boys, Jackie, 11, and Anthony, 9, are "little people" like their parents. They jre learning to strive and achieve, as did their parents, in a world where you must look up to all strangers.

The house does have certain items which are not found elsewhere. Like two sturdy wooden boxes in the kitchen.

How else is Mrs. Carlino to reach the cooking on the range, set the table and use the cupboards?

To save time, she "walks" the wood boxes about the kitchen, instead of hopping on and off with every change of domestic task.

Still, the important kitchen items are located down low, and the superfluous items up high.

"And the girls help me reach things," says Mrs. Carlino, who owned and operated her own store in Klamath Falls, Ore., before she met her husband at a "Little People of America" national convention in Las Vegas.

"I won her at a crap table in Las Vegas. She was just the right size, so I decided to keep her," says Neno Carlino brusquely, with pride.

"I had to fight almost every day in school," says the father, who was born and raised in Berkeley, "and my boys have to look out for themselves, too."

—Independent photo

DAUGHTER JUDY TALKS, MOM COOKS.

"I know it's important to be understood in those younger years. My father was of average size, five feet eight inches, and so was my mother. He always treated me like a six footer, although I was the only little person among my four sisters.

"The boys are out for Little League. Sure, it's a long way to first base. They just have to hit the ball harder."

Getting the boys to Little League games is no problem, as it might appear.

Mother just hops behind the wheel of the full-size station wagon and away they go.

A dwarf driving a car looks normal from the outside, since his body and head are average size, and the shorter arms and legs are not visable.

Inside, are the metal extensions for the accelerator, brake and if necessary, the clutch.

Carlino makes them for his car, and also dwarf friends and others who write him for sun equipment.

"There is a woman in Minneapolis who wrote us. She wants the extensions to learn to drive. And she's only three feet two inches," he said.

There are other implements which Carlino makes for his famigy and others who request them.

A dwarf has a hard time reaching those boxes and cans high on the store display shelves. A telescoping metal shaft with hook on the end fits into the purse or pocket and is handy.

A dwarf has trouble putting coins in a public pay phone. Another extension device grips the coins.

A dwarf has trouble pushing buttons in an elevator. An extension device with rubber tip is sufficient.

While a dwarf has to adjust to this world, sometimes the worl is ready to adjust to him.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert East of Oakland are friends of the Carlinos and they get together during meetings of the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Little Pieople of America.

Robert East is now chapter president, a post held by Carlino last year.

East works at a machine, and he stands on an elevated platform to perform his tasks.

Once, an official came around and complained about the safety of the platform, and the problems of employing a dwarf to run the machine.

"My boss said if it comes to that, they would make a hole in the floor and drop the machine into it," said East, a frequent visitor at the Carlino home.

"One of our little people chapter members died when seh was 83, and worked as a proff reader until she was 80. When she retired, they had to hire three people to do her job," remembers Carlino.

There are about 50 members of the Little People's San Francisco Bay Chapter, and most of them are working at ordinary jobs. Very few "Little People" anywhere are in circus or entertainment occupations, claims Carlino.

One problem concerns him. The local chapter has no persons of minority status.

"We welcome anybody of any color or creed, and we have heard of some black persgns in Oakland who could be members if we were able to contact them," he says.

There are chapter members who are married to persons of average size, and this is taken in stride by other members.

"If you are a little person or have parents or grandparents who are, then there is a good your children will be the same way," Carlino says.

"We have hejrd of a hormonye injection which may stimulate growth, but this works only for certain types of midgets. As for me, I'm happy just the AY I am."

Thd Carlino's are concerned about their children, though.

"Dwarfs are always considered a sort of novelty, at first. The boys take a lot of kidding, just as we did. I tell them to get all the education they can."

There will be another Little People' National Convention this year, in Minneapolis. Bob East is going. Neno Carlino is thinking about it.

And the wives are like all other wives. They want to go, too.

1973

3 Generations: Peggy Dyer, Monique Hamilton & Barbara Yturralde.

Stephen Powers, Sr., with Stevie Jr., brother Ed, and a friend.

Tammy Detro and mother, Barbara

Danny Rogers & Penny Frishman.

Donald from Milford, Iowa and friend, Shawntre.

HOLLYWOOD SHORTIES: Back row (L to R): Larry Green, Rolland Stone, Chris Ramono, Mike Gilden, Jerry Maren, Ray Armstrong, Kevin Thompson, John Williamson, Glen Gayley. Front row: Jimmy Briscoe, Tony Cox, Brad Gayley, LeRoy Lambert, Arturo Gil, and Tommy Madden. Where's Boss Man?

1973

## ~Future Functions~

Garage Sale, Saturday, August 13, SHAKEY'S PIZZA, 5321 Laurel Canyon Blvd. North Hollywood, ((213) 985-6005)

LABOR DAY - BOURSEE'S - Sun Valley, Monday, September 5.

BILLY BARTY GOLF TOURNAMENT, Via Verde Country Club, San Dimas, Sunday, September 25.

District Convention, Palm Springs, October 28, 29 & 30.

National LPA Convention, July 16-22, 1983, Marriott Hotel, Long Wharf, Boston.

## July Birthdays

1 Penny Brown, George Moore
2 Danny Norvell, Dan Ruzcika
3 Michael Gogin
6 Tanya Banks
7 Shirley Barty, Mary Lou Sberna
9 Brenda Myers
10 Marcia DeRousse
12 Barry Taylor
16 Margo Apostolos, Jeffrey Ocone
18 Dee Armstrong, David Schneider
19 Martin McCoy
20 Linda Armstrong
22 Ramiro Contreras, Brenda Garman
24 Braden Barty, Lou Carry
25 Manuel Gonzales
26 Mimi (Wade) Becker
27 Aimee Deshotel
28 Howard Brookfield, Debbie Brookfield, Gabriel Vega
29 Richard E. Cook
30 Margarita Tovar, Lee & Frank Poppie!!

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

Per request of our District Director, Betty Stewart, please return money, tickets, and/or both for the Billy Barty Golf Tournament to her ASAP as all tickets and monies need to be counted for. MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW, Sunday, September 25, at Via Verde Country Club, San Dimas.

## Car Wash ~ 100% Success

Oh Yes, THE CAR WASH!!! We scrubbed, and we scrubbed, and we scrubbed; and then we rubbed, and we rubbed, and we rubbed, and after doing many cars, we even "conquered" several "Tanks"...could have used a few more taller friends...but like MISS PAM said, "where there's a will, there's a way". $110.00 was made at car wash/bake sale. (Someone dropped by our food "booth" and thought we were having a rummage sale...) All in all it was a fun experience, and we thank AL'S CHEVRON for his generosity in allowing us to use an area at his station. (We overheard that Teen DONALD came all the way from MILFORD, IOWA to help us with wash... thank you, DONALD!)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - 4/1 - 6/30
LAC, LPA, INC.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bal. Fwd. | Check. Acct. | $443.75 |
| | Svngs. Acct. | 405.16 |
| | | $838.91 |
| Income: | | |
| | Newsletter | 30.00 |
| | Fundraisers | 132.10 |
| | Interest | 10.68 |
| | | $172.78 |
| Expenses: | | |
| | Newsletters | $274.93 |
| | Fundraisers | 53.10 |
| | Misc.(Conv.Ad) | 100.00 |
| | | $428.03 |
| Net Worth: | | $1,011.69 |
| Checking Acct | $167.82 | |
| Savings Acct | 415.84 | |
| | $583.66 | |

.....Did you readers of the L.A. Times see the story and picture about FLOYD DIXON who, along with his wife, ANNA, wired his father in Unionville, MO an Easter greeting and $5 in 1955; but it got lost, and then recently was returned to him after 28 years!! Quite a story, FLOYD!!!

HARPER, SECOR & YBARRA, INC.
Los Angeles Chapter, Little People of America
1737 So. Butler, Apt. 3
W. Los Angeles, CA 90025

FIRST CLASS

The Neno Carlinos
5828 Santa Cruz Ave.
Richmond, CA 94804

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